

SB 522

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committees on
AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
and
COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH**

**Wednesday, February 6, 2019
1:15 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 224**

**In consideration of
SENATE BILL 522
RELATING TO PLASTIC**

Senate Bill 522 proposes to prohibit the use of plastic bottles, utensils, stirring sticks, polystyrene foam containers, and straws by state agencies by July 1, 2021, and by businesses selling food and beverages by July 1, 2022; bans the distribution or sale of plastic bags after July 1, 2023; bans the sale or distribution of single-use plastic beverage containers after July 1, 2025; creates the plastic source reduction working group to make recommendations for eliminating single-use plastic packaging; and appropriates funds. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) appreciates the intent of this measure and offers the following comments.**

The Department recognizes the deleterious impacts of plastic debris on wildlife and their habitats as a primary natural resource issue throughout the State. Plastic debris degrade land and ocean-based habitat and impact a variety of wildlife (aquatic and terrestrial) through ingestion and entanglement. Senate Bill 522 would help reduce the plastic debris load entering Hawaii's environment and contribute to the improved health of our wildlife and their habitats.

The Department however has concerns that the Bill, as written, would adversely affect critical departmental operations, where bottled water is the only practical option in emergency situations. The Department's Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW) is statutorily mandated by the Land Fire Protection Law, Chapter 185, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to be the primary responder for wildfires on lands managed by DOFAW, which accounts for 26% of the land statewide. DOFAW co-responds with county fire departments and federal agencies to an additional 32%.

SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ROBERT K. MASUDA
FIRST DEPUTY

M. KALEO MANUEL
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

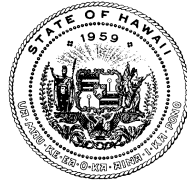
AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

The Department requests that an exception be added to the bill for emergency response and public safety so that the Department may continue to purchase bottled water for their wildland firefighters to prevent dehydration while responding to wildfires.

It should also be noted that the Department has public safety concerns in our state parks which lack sources of potable water such as Kaena Point State Park and Kaiwi State Scenic Shoreline forcing park users to bring in their own water or where we have concessions or vending machines that sell plastic bottled water such as Diamond Head State Monument. The Division of State Parks is currently engaged in the installation of water bottle filling stations throughout the State in an effort to reduce the use of plastic water bottles.

Finally, the Department recognizes that this sweeping initiative would fall under the jurisdiction of the Department of Health, and shares their concerns regarding implementation and enforcement.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

Testimony COMMENTING on SB0522
RELATING TO PLASTIC

SENATOR MIKE GABBARD, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

SENATOR ROSALYN H. BAKER, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH

Hearing Date: February 6, 2019

Room Number: 224

1 **Fiscal Implications:** \$25,000 General fund appropriation for FY 20 & FY 21 for administration
2 of the working group. Unknown amount needed to implement the new programs.

3 **Department Testimony:** This bill proposes to ban state and county purchases of single-use
4 plastic beverage bottles, utensils, stirring sticks, polystyrene foam containers, and straws by July
5 1, 2021; then ban the use of these materials by food establishments by July 1, 2022; ban the
6 distribution and sale of plastic bags after July 1, 2023; ban the sale or distribution of single-use
7 plastic beverage containers after July 1, 2025; and creates the plastic source reduction working
8 group.

9 The Department of Health (Department) offers the following comments. First, Hawaii
10 Revised Statutes, Ch. 342H is not the appropriate placement for the proposed state and county
11 purchasing ban.

12 Second, the measure does not provide accommodations for emergency preparedness or
13 emergency response. The measure prohibits any state or county agency from purchasing, using,
14 or distributing single use plastic beverage bottles, including bottled water. In addition, no
15 individual or business may sell single-use plastic beverage containers. We recognize that if
16 businesses cannot sell single-use plastic beverage containers, these items may not be available

1 in-state during time of emergency. Since single-use beverage container is not defined, these
2 could also include gallon-sized containers, such as those used for milk.

3 Third, the measure doesn't limit single-use plastic beverage containers to only water.
4 Thus, it would suggest that any imported single-serve beverage would need to be in another
5 material type which may create a new waste material that may require changes existing waste
6 collection and management infrastructure. These changes will likely increase costs for counties
7 and private entities.

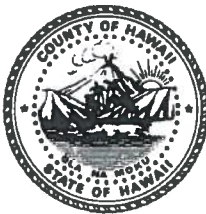
8 Fourth, we note that the proposed bans for plastic bags and polystyrene containers
9 duplicates existing county bans on these materials. Hawaii County, Maui County, the City and
10 County of Honolulu, and Kauai County each have a plastic bag ban in place; while polystyrene
11 food container bans are active or about to begin in Maui County and Hawaii County.

12 **Offered Amendments:** None

13 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

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REBECCA VILLEGAS
Council Member
District 7, Central Kona



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HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL

*West Hawai'i Civic Center, Bldg. A
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Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740*

February 5, 2019

TESTIMONY OF REBECCA VILLEGAS
COUNCIL MEMBER, HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL
ON SB 522, RELATING TO PLASTIC
Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health
Wednesday, February 6, 2019
1:15 p.m.
Conference Room 224

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Chair Baker, and Members of the Committee:


I thank you for the opportunity to testify in support on SB 522, relating to plastic. My testimony is submitted by my individual capacity as a member of the Hawai'i County Council and Chair of the Committee on Public Safety.

The purpose of this measure is to prohibit plastic bottles, utensils, stirring sticks, and polystyrene foam containers by State agencies, and businesses selling food and beverages. It bans the sale and distribution of single-use plastic beverage containers and creates a plastic source reduction working group that will provide recommendations of eliminating single-use plastic packaging.

Single-use disposable food ware and packaging, including plastic bottles, caps, lids, straws, cups, and polystyrene and plastic containers are major contributors to street and beach litter, ocean pollution, marine and other wildlife harm, and greenhouse gas emissions. Much of the plastic produced is designed to be thrown away after a single use, as a result these materials account for about half of the plastic waste in the world. Most plastic ends up in landfills, dumps, or in the environment. Alternatives to plastic currently exist for many take-out items and innovative change for packaging is advancing globally. Locally, plastic litter and debris can be found on every island and in every watershed and protected area in the State of Hawai'i. Hawai'i's forests, streams, and beaches are strewn with plastic debris which are consumed by the smallest of endangered birds to the humpback whale. These pollutants are in the seawater and freshwater which can and is being transferred to fish, other seafood, and salt that is eventually being consumed by humans. Creating a working group that can address these concerns and recommend solutions will assist the elimination of plastic litter massively affecting our environment and health.

For the reasons stated above, I urge the Committee on Agriculture and Environment, the Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health to support this measure as well. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (808) 323-4267.

Mahalo for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rebecca Villegas', with a stylized, cursive script.

Rebecca Villegas
Council Member, Hawai'i County Council

SB-522

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 12:48:51 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tamara Farnsworth	Testifying for County of Maui Dep't of Env. Mgmt.	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing in favor of SB No. 522 on behalf of the County of Maui Department of Environmental Management, the agency responsible for the implementation and enforcement of the polystyrene food service container ban that became effective on December 31, 2018, as well as the 2010 plastic bag ban. The implementation plan to go "Foam Free" was enacted over a 18 month period with a focus on direct outreach to the food service industry and a comprehensive public education campaign over the last 7 months before effective date. The response has been overwhelmingly positive by both the public and private sectors, with the county working together with businesses that have required more assistance with the transition. We have found that almost all nearly 2000 affected businesses, along with their product distributors, have made the switch and are in compliance at this time.

The incremental nature of this legislation is a good approach to effectively implementing such comprehensive measures. We also support the formation of a body at the state level that is focused on the problem of plastic waste in the environment.

The majority of feedback we have heard from businesses is they have either absorbed any additional costs for alternative products or they have passed on those costs to their customers. The feedback we have heard from the general public is that people are happy to pay a few cents extra with the knowledge that the environment, including whales, dolphins, fish, and seabirds, are the beneficiaries of their contribution

Maui County Council and Corporation Counsel deliberated over the issue of interstate commerce challenges and determined that the legislation was sound and that the need to reduce the source of polystyrene foam in our marine and land environments warranted any potential challenges that may arise. As of yet there have been no challenges in this regard from industry or any other party.

Plastic waste is a proven major threat to ocean ecosystems and marine wildlife. It is also a source of climate change from use of fossil fuel-based raw materials as well as greenhouse gas emissions. Those of us living in island environments, in particular, are

discovering the significant positive impact that single-use plastic bans can have, as well as the resilient ability of our communities to adapt to these changes for the better. Everything is connected and healthy ecosystems are inextricably linked to healthier lives for all of us.

Maui County is learning to live without polystyrene foam food service containers and other single-use plastic products with relative ease. All of the state of Hawaii can, too. We encourage the Hawaii State Senate to champion this legislation as leaders in environmental protection.

SB-522

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 9:47:07 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Natalie Parra	Testifying for Keiko Conservation	Support	No

Comments:

We strongly support this bill.

SB-522

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 5:40:17 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
William W. Steiner	Testifying for Pacific Agricultural Land Management Systems	Support	No

Comments:

I am the CEO of Pacific Agricultural Land Management Systems and co-Founder and General Manager of Hawaii Oil Seed Producers LLC with the aim of establishing oil palm cultivation in Hawaii. Hawaii has no natural bio-oil industry and such oils, just as soybean oil in the US Midwest, can be used to manufacture biodiesel, plastics, pharmaceuticals and cosmetics. Bioplastics can now be manufactured from bio-oils which can breakdown after their use to leave no plastic residue behind. If Hawaii could manufacture their own plastic stock, then new industries could be founded in Hawaii to create new technical jobs and increasing sustainability. This bill would pave the way for bioplastics to gain a valuable use in Hawaii.

SB-522

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 7:30:19 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kimiko LaHaela Walter	Testifying for Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition HIROC	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chairs Gabbard and Baker, Vice Chairs Ruderman and Chang and members of the committees,

The HAWAI'I REEF AND OCEAN COALITION –HIROC– was formed in 2017 by coral reef scientists, educators, local Hawai'i environmental organizations, elected officials, and others to address a crisis facing Hawai'i's coral reefs and ocean, including harms from plastics.

Polystyrene foam containers are ultra-light, produce litter on land, and often are blown into the ocean, where they harm marine life, including sea birds, fish, mammals and even our precious corals that protect Hawai'i's shorelines. Single-use plastics (straws, bags, bottles, utensils) similarly break into smaller and smaller pieces that choke sea birds and other marine life and carry bacteria that harms many forms of sea life. There are more sustainable alternatives to plastics that would involve only a small increase for consumers, with far less impact on our pristine environment. We must act now to protect our environment by reducing plastic use!

We strongly support this bill and urge its passage.

Mahalo,

Kimiko LaHaela Walter on behalf of the Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition



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Derek Kurisu, KTA Superstores, *Advisor*

TO:

Committee on Agriculture and Environment and Committee on Commerce Consumer Protection and Health

Senator Mike Gabbard and Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chairs

Senator Russell E. Ruderman and Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair

FROM: HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

Lauren Zirbel, Executive Director

DATE: February 6, 2019

TIME: 1:15pm

PLACE: Conference Room 224

RE: SB522 Relating to Plastic

Position: Oppose

The Hawaii Food Industry Association is comprised of two hundred member companies representing retailers, suppliers, producers, and distributors of food and beverage related products in the State of Hawaii.

HFIA is in opposition to this measure as it will raise prices on essential items for Hawaii consumers and limit Hawaii residents' access to a range of products. This measure will also not address the underlying causes of global marine debris or local littering and waste mismanagement.

This measure would ban a huge range of products that Hawaii consumers rely on because they are safe and durable. Businesses would have to choose between either supplying more expensive alternatives and increasing prices for food and other items, or simply no longer offering these products in Hawaii.

The Hawaii State Department of Health's Rethink Your Drink Campaign encourages Hawaii residents to "Choose water instead!" Without access to bottled water making this healthy choice becomes much harder. This is just one example of the type of product that could disappear from Hawaii under this ban.

Grocery stores and other food retailers would be especially hard hit by this measure. In general, food retailers operate at a profit margin of around one percent and small businesses, grocers and non-profits have comparably low or non-existent profit margins. With Hawaii's high prices, they struggle everyday to survive. They use plastic and polystyrene products because they are cost effective, sanitary, and sturdy. These products keep food fresh and safe. A recent audit of polystyrene and bag bans by the City and County of Honolulu City Auditor determined that:

"Any attempt to regulate the food service industry will impact a wide segment of Honolulu residents, largely in the form of price increases passed on to customers. Some impacts to certain vulnerable classes of residents need to be closely examined to prevent unnecessary effects and harms."

If passed this measure would also threaten hundreds of jobs in Kalihi where locally produced, favorably priced, FDA approved polystyrene food containers are made. Passing this measure will ban a safe, locally created product and in many cases force local businesses to switch to products that are manufactured in China under less stringent environmental regulations, and then must be shipped thousands of miles to the mainland and then thousands more from the mainland to Hawaii. The carbon footprint of transporting the non-polystyrene containers outweighs any potential benefit. All the products targeted by this bill can be recycled and or turned into energy at HPOWER.

No products are created in a vacuum, all products require resources to manufacture and ship. Cardboard and paper products are made by cutting down trees, glass is heavy and requires substantial resources to ship as a new product and when it becomes waste, sugar cane and corn based products require the use of large amounts of water and pesticides. Protecting our environment means responsibly planning for the life cycle of all products, regardless of what they're made of.

Bans may change the composition of litter but they don't address the underlying causes of poor waste management. The City and County of Honolulu City Auditor also determined that: "Minimizing litter to keep our natural environment safe from harm is an important community objective. To be successful, the city should pursue comprehensive methods rather than a simplistic ban on a single kind of litter/trash that is unlikely to effectively reduce the overall amount of litter and its harm to the environment."

All the products targeted by this measure can be recycled and or turned into energy on Oahu at HPOWER. The legislature should be focusing on ways to ensure that we are reducing all types of litter and responsibly managing all waste rather than imposing an overreaching ban of a few products, which has so many negative consequences. For these reasons we ask that this measure be held.



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COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Russell Ruderman, Vice Chair

Wednesday, February 6, 2019, 1:15 p.m. and 1:45 p.m., Conference Room 224

SB11 – Relating to Polystyrene Foam Containers
SB367 – Relating to Environmental Protection
SB522 – Relating to Plastic

TESTIMONY

Nancy Davlantes, Legislative Committee Member, League of Women Voters of Hawaii

Chair Gabbard, Vice-Chair Ruderman, committee members:

The League of Women Voters of Hawaii supports the intent of all three of these bills which would, respectively, prohibit the sale of polystyrene foam containers statewide; prohibit food service businesses and stores from the sale, use, or distribution of polystyrene foam containers, expanded polystyrene food service products, plastic straws, and plastic bags; and establish an incremental ban on plastic bottles, utensils, polystyrene foam containers, straws, plastic bags, and single-use plastic beverage containers.

Perhaps it was the photos of a honu with a plastic straw in its nostril, the pictures of the Great Pacific Garbage Patch, the stories of the unending piles of plastics that wash up not just on our shores but the shores of Midway and are ingested by the seabirds that nest there, or the micro-plastics that are making their way into our own food supply.

Whatever the confluence that brought this problem front and center to the attention to those with the wherewithal to do something about it, the League is gratified that Hawaii appears now ready to confront what is a monumental problem.

The content of these bills overlaps with one-another and offer common objectives. But they give the legislature much to work with and craft legislation that would at last address the problem here and in the Pacific. We realize the problem is worldwide but getting a handle on how to deal with it here is something we can all support.

No doubt there will be opposition from the food service-related parts of the economy, and that is to be expected, but incentives can be employed to encourage what we realize is a huge change in their way of doing business.

The bottom line is that the alternative of not acting is unacceptable.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Weds. Feb 6, 2019 - Hearing
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Senate Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce

SB 367, SB 522, SB 11 - Oppose

Chair Gabbard, Chair Baker and members of the Committees:

My name is Mark Ushijima and I am a partner in the Hibachi Kailua. I am strongly against a ban on styrofoam containers in Hawaii. This will truly impact the small businesses in Hawaii. We already have high overhead costs (labor, electricity, taxes, fees, lease rent, etc...) that adding to our cost of goods would be very detrimental.

I also have a small business with my friend in Washington State. Washington State did not impose a ban on styrofoam but they strongly discourage styrofoam. They understand the importance of small businesses in Washington.

State legislators should review the Honolulu City Auditor's Study (which I participated in) about Single Use Polystyrene Food Containers and Plastic Bags.

http://www.honolulu.gov/rep/site/oca/oca_docs/PS_Ban_Study_Final_Report.pdf

The City Auditor finds that the majority of litter observed was miscellaneous items, and food service items mainly of non-polystyrene material that would remain unaffected by a ban.

Since there are no reusable alternative food containers, the ban will only change the material of the container, and that substitute container will become litter. Customers sometimes bring in personal reusable containers but many do not know that is against the law due to safety and hygiene reasons.

Focusing on styrofoam and only one type of plastic, that is not a big part of the waste stream, doesn't make sense. Someone should look at all the plastics from retail chips to juice pouches to frozen food bags—just walk through a grocery store. Some of these like potato chip bags are littered on streets, parks and beaches far more than foam food containers. I don't understand this. There are so many other plastic litter why go after a economical, useful product that's not even a major part of the litter problem.

Please do not pass this law. Not only will it affect the business owners but it will also affect the employees who work tirelessly for higher wages.

Thank you,

Mark Ushijima
the Hibachi
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Kailua, HI 96734
thehibachihawaii@gmail.com



SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAI'I

MĀLAMA I KA HONUA. *Cherish the Earth.*

SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT &

SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH

February 6, 2019 1:15 p.m. Room 224

In **SUPPORT** of **SB522**: Relating to plastic

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Chair Baker, Vice Chair Ruderman, Vice Chair Chang, and members of both committees,

On behalf of our 20,000 members and supporters, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i **strongly supports SB 522**, which seeks to prohibit the use and sales of plastic bottles, utensils, stirring sticks, polystyrene foam containers, and straws by state agencies and ultimately businesses selling food and beverages, as well as to ban the distribution or sale of plastic bags and single-use plastic beverage containers. This bill also aims to create the plastic source reduction working group to make recommendations for eliminating single-use plastic packaging.

The Sierra Club of Hawai'i is dedicated to protecting these unique and beautiful islands we call home. Part of our dedication to protect is to keep these valuable public areas free of pollution from plastics and other waste. In this case, we advocate for halting harmful plastic pollution at the source. This measure is one of many that support our collective efforts to reduce pollution across the board.

Single-use plastics pollute our lands and freshwater bodies, clog up drainage systems, harm wildlife and ultimately end up in our ocean waters settling on our reefs and, in some places, creating large plastic island gyres. Plastics, especially for single-use, cannot typically be recycled, and pose harm to marine life. The toxins and heavy chemicals found in them are not compostable or biodegradable and can take 500 years or more to decompose. They create an overabundance of waste that continually overflows local landfills and overflows our beaches. By reducing single-use plastics at the source, Hawai'i will have the opportunity to take on one of the most toxic and widespread of pollutants and showcase its state sustainability goals to the nation.

We urge the Committee to pass this measure, which will serve our collective efforts to keep Hawai'i's land, freshwater bodies, and oceans free of plastic pollution. Thank you very much for this opportunity to provide testimony in **support of SB 522**.

Mahalo,
Lori Mallini
Volunteer, Sierra Club of Hawai'i



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**Hawaii State Legislature
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health
Public Hearing on Senate Bill 522
February 6, 2019**

Written Testimony

**James P. Toner, Jr.
Director of Government Relations
International Bottled Water Association**

Chair Gabbard, Chair Baker, and members of the Committees, thank you for this opportunity to submit written testimony on Senate Bill 522, which would, among other things, prohibit the sale and distribution of single-serve plastic beverage containers.

The International Bottled Water Association (IBWA)¹ strongly opposes SB 522. This legislation is not in the public interest and IBWA would urge the committees not to support it. IBWA opposes this legislation because:

- efforts to ban or restrict access to bottled water hinder individuals searching for a healthier beverage alternative
- bottled water has the lowest environmental footprint of any packaged beverage
- being strictly regulated by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration as a food product makes bottled water a safe choice for consumers
- it puts citizens at extreme high risk should there be a failure of a public water system
- it would greatly impact existing recycling streams in the state since polyethylene terephthalate (PET) is one of the most sought after materials in resource recovery markets
- the bottled water industry has a strong presence and commitment to Hawaii

¹ IBWA is the trade association representing all segments of the bottled water industry, including spring, artesian, mineral, sparkling, well, groundwater and purified bottled waters. IBWA represents bottled water bottlers, distributors and suppliers throughout the United States, including several small, medium and large-size companies doing business in Hawaii. IBWA's stated mission is to serve the members and the public, by championing bottled water as an important choice for healthy hydration and lifestyle, and promoting an environmentally responsible and sustainable industry.

Bottled Water's Role in Healthy Hydration

For those who want to eliminate or moderate calories, sugar, caffeine, artificial flavors or colors, and other ingredients from their diet, or simply wish to opt for a convenient beverage with refreshing taste, reliable quality, and zero calories, choosing water is the right choice – no matter what the delivery method. Bottled water is a smart decision and a healthy choice when it comes to beverage options. Efforts to eliminate or reduce access to bottled water, such as this legislation, only hinder attempts to encourage people to choose healthier drink options.

In fact, since 1998, approximately 73% of the growth in bottled water consumption has come from people switching from carbonated soft drinks, juices, and milk to bottled water. It is the major factor that has made bottled water the number one packaged beverage in the United States. One of the simplest changes a person can make is to switch to drinking water instead of other beverages that are heavy with sugar and calories. According to the Institute of Medicine and the American Journal of Preventative Medicine, two-thirds of American adults are overweight with one-third of those individuals being obese, and over the last 30 years, children's obesity rates have climbed from 5% to 17%. Drinking zero-calorie beverages, such as water, instead of sugary drinks is regularly cited as a key component of a more healthful lifestyle, and promoting greater consumption of water from all sources, including from bottled water, can only benefit those efforts.

In today's on-the-go society, most of what we drink comes in a package. Attacks on bottled water only help to promote less healthy options among other beverages. Research shows that if bottled water isn't available, 52% of people will choose soda or another sugared drink – not tap water.

Bottled Water Industry is a Very Good Environmental Steward

Just like the bottled water industry, Hawaii prides itself on being proactive when it comes to environmental stewardship and recycling. The state's mandatory bottle deposit program (Act 176 - Deposit Beverage Container Law), in effect for 14 years, was specifically implemented to address the recycling of a wide array of beverage containers, including those for bottled water. According to the Hawaii Office of Solid Waste Management, the 2017 overall redemption rate for the program was 65%, while PET containers, most commonly used for single-serve beverages, including bottled water, achieved a 57% redemption rate.

Bottled water has the smallest environmental footprint of all packaged beverages. All bottled water containers are 100% recyclable, and, as an industry, we support strong community recycling initiatives and recognize that a continued focus on increased recycling is important for everyone. In addition, bottled water containers are the most common item in curbside recycling programs, recycled at a rate of 53.9 percent. The industry is always looking for ways to strengthen existing recycling programs and help to expand recycling efforts ever further. However, even when they are not properly recycled, bottled water containers make up only 3.3 percent of all drink packaging in U.S. landfills. By comparison, aluminum cans make up 7.9 percent. Bottled water also has the lowest water- and energy-use ratios of all packaged beverages. On average, it takes only 1.39 liters of water to produce 1 liter of finished bottled

water (including the liter of water consumed), which is the lowest water-use ratio of any packaged beverage product. And on average, only 0.21 mega joules of energy are used to produce 1 liter of bottle of water.

Continual light-weighting of PET plastic packaging for bottled water has seen the average weight drop to 9.25 grams per 16.9 ounce single-serve container. According to the Beverage Marketing Corporation, between 2000 and 2014, the average weight of a 16.9-ounce (half-liter) PET plastic bottled water container declined 51 percent. This resulted in a savings of 6.2 billion pounds of PET resin since 2000.

While bottled water is just one of thousands of consumer items packaged in plastic, the bottled water industry has also gone to great lengths to reduce the environmental impact of its packaging, including developing new technologies in product packaging such as the use of recycled content, reduction of plastic used in caps and shrink-wrapping, and reduction of paper used in labels and shipping cardboard. IBWA member companies are increasing their use of recycled PET (rPET) and many bottled water companies already use bottles made from 50, 75, and, in some cases, 100 percent rPET. Furthermore, the bottled water industry is continually developing additional ways to reduce its environmental footprint, from production to distribution to consumption. This includes development of “green” bottling facilities, as well as utilization of more fuel-efficient means of producing and transporting product to market.

In 2017, IBWA published a life cycle inventory (LCI) by Quantis to determine the environmental footprint of the United States bottled water industry. The results indicate that bottled water has a very small environmental footprint. In fact, the PET small pack and Home Office Delivery (HOD) bottled water industries combined emit 7.49 million metric tonnes of CO₂-eq., which is equivalent to 0.1 percent of total United States emissions. In 2015, the total non-renewable energy consumption by the bottled water industry was 0.247 trillion MJ. The energy used by the bottled water industry (considering only direct energy use by the industry – i.e., bottling plant operations and distribution of bottled water) compared to the U.S. total energy use is 0.3 percent. The LCI also states that the total bottled water industry generated 0.288 million metric tonnes of solid waste. The amount of solid waste generated by the bottled water industry compared to the U.S. total solid waste generation is 0.1 percent.

We ask the committee members to consider that there are thousands of products made with plastic and PET offered to consumers each day. Singling out bottled water or beverage containers, a very small part of the larger family of products using plastic and PET, would seem unfair and would have little impact on overall plastic waste management.

Bottled Water is a Safe Choice

Bottled water companies produce a safe, healthy, and convenient packaged food product that is comprehensively and stringently regulated by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FFDCA), 21 U.S.C. § 301 et seq., and applicable sections of Title 21 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR). Bottled water must meet the FDA’s general food regulations, as well as standards of identity, standards of quality, good manufacturing practices and labeling requirements specifically promulgated for bottled

water. By federal law, the FDA regulations governing the safety and quality of bottled water must be as stringent as the EPA regulations governing tap water. And, in some very important cases like coliform bacteria and E. coli, bottled water regulations are substantially more stringent.

All bottled water products – whether from groundwater or public water sources – are produced utilizing a multi-barrier approach. From source to finished product, a multi-barrier approach helps prevent possible harmful contamination to the finished product as well as storage, production, and transportation equipment. Measures in a multi-barrier approach may include one or more of the following: source protection, source monitoring, reverse osmosis, distillation, micro-filtration, carbon filtration, ozonation, and ultraviolet (UV) light.

Claims regarding chemicals leaching from plastic water bottles are inaccurate, misleading and only serve to create unnecessary alarm among consumers. Bottled water containers, as with all food packaging materials, must be made from substances approved by the FDA for food contact. Plastic containers that are used for bottled water products (which are made from the same materials used in other food product containers) have undergone FDA scrutiny prior to being available for use in the market place. The FDA has determined that the containers used by the bottled water industry are safe for use and do not pose a health risk to consumers.

Bottled Water is Always There When You Need It

The bottled water industry has always been at the forefront of relief efforts during natural disasters and other catastrophic events. Clean, safe water is a critical need for citizens and first responders immediately following a natural disaster or other catastrophic event. Unfortunately, the availability of water from public water systems is often compromised in the aftermath of such an event (e.g., hurricanes, floods, wildfires, boil alerts). During these times, bottled water is the best option to deliver clean safe drinking water quickly into affected areas.

Removing all access to bottled water during times of need could result in an extremely dangerous situation for citizens at need and have a drastic effect on the state's ability to respond in a timely and efficient manner. The bottled water industry would not be able to provide safe, clean drinking water to Hawaii citizens when their public water systems are compromised without a viable commercial market. This provides the industry with the capital and resources to respond quickly when needed. The bottled industry cannot, and should not, exist only for disaster responses – something some critics of the bottled water industry desire. We urge committee members to remember that the bottled water industry is called upon every year to provide drinking water during critical times throughout Hawaii.

Bottled Water is an Important Economic Force in Hawaii

Companies in Hawaii that manufacture, distribute and sell bottled water employ as many as 1,231 people in the state and generate an additional 2,211 jobs in supplier and ancillary industries. These include jobs in companies supplying goods and services to manufacturers, distributors and retailers, as well as those that depend on sales to workers in the bottled water industry. The jobs currently generated by the bottled water industry in Hawaii are good jobs,

paying an average of \$49,664 in wages and benefits. These jobs would be at risk should SB 522 pass as it may force bottlers in the state to shutter their doors.

Not only does the manufacture and sale of bottled water create good jobs in Hawaii, but the industry also contributes to the economy as a whole. In fact, the bottled water industry is responsible for as much as \$691.06 million in total economic activity in the state. The bottled water industry generates sizeable tax revenues in the state. In Hawaii, the industry and its employees pay over \$33.2 million in taxes including property, income, and sales-based levies.

On top of these everyday economic numbers, the state receives a large sum of dollars from the existing bottle deposit program. And this money goes beyond what the state takes from unclaimed deposits but impacts money generated and received by businesses through the handling fee and the non-refundable container fee. With a substantial amount of that money being produced by the purchase and return on single-use plastic beverage containers, the state and businesses tied to the deposit program can expect a significant reduction in monies delivered.

Thank you for your consideration of IBWA's opposition to SB 522, and please do not hesitate to contact IBWA with any concerns or questions.

February 5, 2019

The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair
Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 201
Honolulu, HI 96813

The Honorable Rosalyn H Baker, Chair
Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 230
Honolulu, HI 96813

SUBJECT: SB 522 – Relating to Plastic – Opposed

Dear Chairs Gabbard and Baker,

On behalf of the Plastics Industry Association (PLASTICS), I am writing to offer our comments on SB 522 – an act that prohibits the use of plastic bottles, utensils, polystyrene foam and straws. While we support the intent of the legislature to address plastic marine debris, we do not believe that a ban of the products mentioned in this legislation will achieve the environmental goals the state is striving for. For that reason, we oppose this legislation.

Single-use plastic beverage bottles provide an efficient and hygienic means of delivering fresh water to consumers. Banning this product would prevent consumers from carrying and distributing clean water when they are not near a potable water source. Furthermore, we believe single-use plastic beverage bottles is a misnomer because they can be reused as well as recycled. In fact, polyethylene terephthalate (PET) bottles were the most recycled bottle in 2017 compared to other plastic bottles. Banning this product would further hurt the recycling infrastructure in place, and the jobs associated with recycling, by depleting the supply chain of this important material that can be recycled into other products.

Similarly, plastic straws offer many useful benefits for health and safety. Not all consumers are able to drink beverages without the use of a straw, namely the young, elderly, and infirm. The legislation makes no attempt to provide any exemptions to this legislation. Policy options like "straws upon request" would provide a much better option than banning these products. A similar argument can be made about plastic utensils which provide a sanitary and convenient means for consuming food. It should also be noted that Hawaii restaurants are already taking voluntary efforts to reduce their use of plastic straws and utensils.

Expanded polystyrene is among the most efficient materials at keeping foods fresh, free of leaks and spills, and, most importantly, hot or cold. Schools, hospitals, nursing homes, non-profit food programs, delis, and family-owned restaurants are among the many institutions that rely upon expanded polystyrene for its excellent insulation at an economical price. Alternative packaging materials are often as high as 2-3 times more expensive and do not perform as efficiently. Furthermore, recyclers and expanded polystyrene manufacturers have proven that the product can be recycled.

In sum, the environmental costs of plastic alternatives are 3.8 times greater than using plastic materials. This is due to the efficient production, use and handling of plastic during the entire lifecycle of these products. We would therefore suggest more resources be placed in improving recycling infrastructure, consumer education and solid waste management strategies than banning these products.

If you have any questions, please contact me directly at 202.974.5206 or scrawford@plasticsindustry.org.

Respectfully,



Shannon V. Crawford
Director, State Government Affairs

SB-522

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 8:34:15 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michael A Nobriga	Testifying for Maui Soda & Ice Works, Ltd	Oppose	No

Comments:

We are against this measure from moving forward. This would be a huge detriment to our family business here on Maui, as well as the entire State. Prohibiting containers from any industry goes against free enterprise and free commerce.

I would urge you to look into a law that prohibits bottle water being filled on dedicated production lines. without the repeal of this, there is no alternative container available for our industry.

Mahalo



Kelii Gouveia, Chairman – Duke's Waikiki **Tom Jones, Incoming Chair** – Gyotaku
Tammy Fukugawa, Vice Chair – TS Restaurant **Dirk Koeppenkastrup, Secretary** – IL Gelato Hawaii
Michael Miller, Treasurer – Tiki's Grill & Bar **Tyler Roukema, Past Chair** – Outrigger Canoe Club

Sheryl Matsuoka, Executive Director **Leila Morinaga**, Executive Assistant **Holly Kessler**, Director of Membership Relations

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To: Sen. Mike Gabbard, Chair
Sen. Russell E. Ruderman, Vice Chair
Members of Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Sen. Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Sen. Stanley Chang, Vice Chair
Members of Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

From: Victor Lim, Legislative Lead
Hawaii Restaurant Association

Subj: SB 367 Relating to Environmental Protection
SB 522 Relating to Plastic

Date; February 3, 2019

The Hawaii Restaurant Association representing over 3,500 restaurants here takes the liberty of addressing these two related bills together and stand opposed to both of them for the following reasons.

Polystyrene Foam Containers are a USDA approved product that is primarily used by ethnic businesses here in Honolulu due to its superior ability in transporting hot foods and soups. The neighbor islands have regulations against the product but here in Honolulu where all the waste go to H Power. A recent report by the City Auditor Edwin Young in Honolulu shows that eliminating of these containers Will basically shift from one type of waste product to another and they all end up at the H Power since we do not have any composting facilities here in Hawaii. It also states that less one percent of our total trash is currently made up of foam food containers.

Plastic Straws. We do support the bills and initiatives that state that straws should be given out only upon request at full service restaurants similar to the California State law that was passed in 2018. How beverages are consumed varies greatly from the sit down restaurants to the quick service restaurants with drive-thru's where many food and beverages are consumed on the go. Alternate straws made from paper, bamboo, metal are all being tested around the world with limited success due to its performance, durability, after taste, and costs.

NextGen Consortium. This is a partnership initially set up by Starbucks and McDonald's to fund research now joined by Coca Cola and Yum for food service containers that will be both environmentally green and meet performance needs of the food and beverage industry. Each of the parties have contributed millions for this to help us find a workable solution.

Many of the major chains's CEOs like Steve Easterbrook has made a corporate commitment that by 2025, 100 percent of McDonald's guest packaging will come from renewable, recycled or certified sources with a preference for Forest Stewardship Council (FRC) certification. Many other major entities like Starbucks are working on a similar path.





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Richard Turbin
Sidney Higa
Tina Rogers
Victor Lim

The alternate industry is in its infancy and that why we at the Hawaii Restaurant Association urges Senators to be patient with these aggressive deadlines for implementation.

Thank you very much for giving us this opportunity to share the Restaurant Industry's perspective on this very important issue.



SB-522

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 10:35:54 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lisa Bishop	Testifying for Friends of Hanauma Bay	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Chair Baker, and members of the AEN and CPH Committees,

Friends of Hanauma Bay strongly support this bill and its comprehensive approach to mitigating what is clearly a long-term problem for our near shore marine environment.

Please pass SB522, and mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Lisa Bishop

President



SB 522: Strong Support
Hearing: February 6th 2019, 1:15PM
Committee on AEN/CPH

Dear Members of the Senate AEN & CPH Committees,

Mahalo for your time, effort and energized focus on a series of bills that are addressing plastic pollution and its associated effects on our environment, climate change, waste generation, and of course on our visitor industry. **We are in strong support of SB522** – a phase out plan for single-use plastics and mechanism to continue to find solutions for other forms of plastic packaging pollution. While many similar bills exist this session, we believe this to be one of the most comprehensive. Ideally, we will find mechanisms to combine bills and move them forward with a unified support across the legislature. The problem is dire as the story and data that follow illustrate.

Surfrider Foundation's O'ahu Chapter and our extended community is deeply concerned about plastics on our beaches, in our nearshore waters, and now found in marine life that calls these areas home. As a country, our citizens produce more than double per capita plastic waste of China and five times that of Indonesia, while (with Europe), housing 95% of the companies, lobbyists, and industries in the plastic economy (WEF 2016). By centering our eye on, Hawai'i, the U.S. state with the highest rates of waste generation (doubling the national average) and the beaches inundated with the Pacific Gyre's rapidly increasing plastic pollution (CNN 2016) we are at the heart of the global plastic problem. Up to 80% of the plastic in our oceans comes from land-based sources, estimated at 5-13 million tons of plastic. Hawai'i is uniquely positioned to focus the narrative of plastic solutions and our State has the opportunity to lead the world in a progressive movement that cultivates change at the source.

The United States environmental protection agency (EPA) outlines a waste pyramid in which reduction and re-use stand as the pinnacle to effective waste management. Our Cities, Counties, and State need to rethink the way they create, handle, and discuss waste. Surfrider Foundation believes that we can become a leader in a regenerative economy in which we value reuse and recovery over the single-use items. Single-use plastics, like straws, polystyrene foam, plastic cutlery, bags, and water bottles are a fossil fuel driven, carbon emitting industry that has no place in an island economy where space is limited and our environmental health is the most important issue to our economy.

To date, the majority of dialogue regarding solutions to the plastic problem revolves around how we clean up our how we focus attention on regions of the world that have poorer waste management. These solutions may help slow the flow of waste into our oceans or clean up what is already there, but do not help solve the underlying issue. As our ocean fills with more plastic by weight than fish (Washington Post 2016) by 2050, as we have seen a 610% increase in raw plastic production since 1975 (Jambeck 2015), and as 95% of plastic packaging globally (resulting in \$80-120 billion cost) is lost after a single-first use (WEF 2016), the solutions must be more geared towards a shift away from the fossil fuel based, greenhouse gas creating industry of plastics. Alternatives derived from compostable materials are widely available now as a stop-gap effort as we shift our economy back towards a system of reuse that is at the foundation of both Hawaiian culture and the ethic that this country began on.

United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

Plastic pollution reduction and movement away from a single-use economy are directly tied to the [United Nations Sustainable Development Goals](#) that our Senate has adopted and correspond to our Aloha + Challenge:

- Goal 12 = Responsible Production & Consumption - “Sustainable consumption and production is about promoting resource and energy efficiency, sustainable infrastructure, and providing access to basic services, green and decent jobs and a better quality of life for all. Its implementation helps to achieve overall development plans, reduce future economic, environmental and social costs, strengthen economic competitiveness and reduce poverty.” If our state aims to work on this goal, removing unnecessary materials from our waste stream is paramount in holding both producers and consumers responsible for their choices.
- Goal 13 = Climate Action - See the climate change section of this testimony
- Goal 14 = Life Below Water - Countless studies globally have assessed the dire impact of plastics on marine life from whales to corals. Many of these studies are referenced in this testimony.
- Goal 15 = Life on Land - Calculations of cleanup costs (See above section) on land for plastic pollution are astronomical as they affect our stormdrains, freshwater systems, and beaches. Not only are their direct costs from cleanup of polluted resources, but their will be mounting indirect costs to our tourism industry should pollution trends continue.

Plastics & Climate Change (SDG #13:

Plastics are made from fossil fuels. The proliferation of plastic production and the current projected increase will mean that plastic production will account for 20% of the global fossil fuel budget by 2050 (United Nations 2018). A recent study from UH Mānoa researchers, published in PLOS One, illustrates that not only are plastics contributing to greenhouse gases in the production & transportation sectors, they are also releasing methane and ethylene as they degrade in water and sunlight. This shed light on the full cycle consequences of plastic from production to disposal as major contributors to the climate crisis.

Cost of Plastic Pollution (SDG #12, 13, 14, 15):

The costs of plastic pollution are mounting in multiple sectors - financially, ecologically, and socially. Plastic is costing cities, counties, states, & countries millions of dollars and our global economy billions. Costs are passed to the taxpayers by burdening our stormwater management systems with the need for expensive best management practices and the costs of cleanups. Hawai'i State Department of Transportation (HDOT) has produced a trash plan that shows polystyrene foam and plastic bags as the top two contributors to the waste stream, while in California, the Natural Resource Defense Council (NRDC) created a plastic cleanup valuation study for 90+ counties in California. The study concluded that CA taxpayers are paying \$428 million per year to clean up plastic through storm drain management, street sweeping, and marine cleanups. San Diego County (with population of 1.3 equivalent to Hawaii) spends \$14 million alone on plastic cleanup. In late 2018, San Diego passed a sweeping prohibition of polystyrene foam and reduction of other single-use plastics, joining hundreds of municipalities across the globe in stemming this plastic tide.

"The economic damage caused by plastic waste is vast. Plastic litter in the Asia-Pacific region alone costs its tourism, fishing and shipping industries \$1.3 billion per year. In Europe, cleaning plastic waste from coasts and beaches costs about €630 million per year. Studies suggest that the total economic damage to the world's marine ecosystem caused by plastic amounts to at least \$13 billion every year. The economic, health and environmental reasons to act are clear." (UNEP 2018)

Harm to Reefs & Marine Life (SDG #14)

A recent study published in the renowned journal of *Science* describes the mounting issues of plastics on our fragile and threatened reefs. The study describes corals as being 90% more likely to be diseased when plastic sits on the reef. The billions of pieces of plastic already in the ocean are scarring reefs and then likely infecting them with the contamination that comes from their chemical properties that allow for microbial colonization of pathogens. In other words, plastics bio-accumulate toxins in the water and thus can transfer such toxins to other organisms like coral. This is yet another toxic consequence of plastics in our oceans, of which many more are described in the points below.

The effects to marine life in our oceans are mounting. 50 to 80 percent of dead sea turtles have ingested plastic. Plastic bags, which resemble jellyfish, are the most commonly found item in sea turtles' stomachs. Worldwide, 82 of 144 examined bird species contained plastic debris in their stomachs; and in some cases, 80 percent of the population had consumed plastic. Researchers found that 66 percent of Giant Petrel shorebirds regurgitated plastic when feeding their chicks. Commercial fish, such as Opah and Bigeye Tuna, consume plastic, which could significantly reduce global populations. A University of Hawaii study reports "[i]n the two [Opah] species found in Hawaiian waters, 58 percent of the small-eye opah and 43 percent of the big-eye opah had ingested some kind of debris."

On a recent field trip visiting with the Marine Mammal Research Program, we were guided through the facilities where beached and dead Pilot Whales had been examined. The stomach contents of the three animals found on O'ahu, Lana'i, and Kaua'i revealed between 15-

30 lbs of plastic in the gut. Plastic does not breakdown like organic material and as marine animals continue to ingest the plastics their stomachs eventually fill to a state in which they can no longer consume enough food to address proper nutritional maintenance. This is similar to the problem widely shared with Laysan Albatross in Papahānaumokuākea.

HPower and the problems of incineration (SDG #12):

Many arguments against polystyrene foam bans and other single-use plastics contend that keeping these products is helpful for our incineration and energy production. In direct interviews with Covanta, the operators of O'ahu's HPOWER, they have stated that plastics are some of the least efficient forms of waste to burn. Given their chemical composition, they burn fast and at high heat. While this may seem advantageous, the boilers are most efficient when running at a more consistent temperature. Covanta stated that it actually takes them adding other material to even out these "hot-flashes." When looked at objectively this is very easy to imagine. If you were creating a fire in a fire pit or place imagine throwing oil or a plastic bottle into the flames - you would see a burst of flames which quickly dissipated after leaving a toxic smelling fume. Now think of burning a more organic material from paper or cardboard to a log; in this scenario you would notice a much slower, more controlled burn that put out a longer-lasting and more efficient source of heat (energy).

Additionally, incineration is a poor choice altogether for dealing with plastic waste. Just based on simple emission calculations on kilowatt/hour, HPOWER produces almost triple the GHG emission of our oil burning plant and just slightly less than coal. This places incineration as one of the dirtiest forms of energy production. In places like Copenhagen, their reliance on incineration actually caused them to go well over their agreed upon Kyoto protocol limits for GHGs. With the State of Hawai'i institutionalizing the Paris Climate agreement and also agreeing to net-zero emissions, incineration should be phased out of any energy production goals. Finally, as noted in a BBC News article in 2018, plastics in a landfill are mostly inert, as they don't break down when buried in the landfill and are thus not emitting anywhere near the emissions that come with incineration. While we understand that Hawai'i is limited in its space as a unique piece to this discussion, it needs to be noted that the environmental consequences of incineration are far greater than advertised. Thus, the emphasis needs to be a continued to push towards reduction of waste.

Ultimately, we have to reduce the problem at its source. Single-use plastics are an unneeded convenience that our society must learn to move away from. The alternatives exist and we must exercise some sort of ethic over our consumer behavior. Our kuleana is to protect our public trust resources like our shorelines for all generations into the future and currently we are not fulfilling that leadership role. Surfrider Foundation strongly urges the State Legislature to pass SB 522, creating a phase out plan for detrimental single-use plastics and beginning the deeper look into our problems surrounding packaging.

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

Rafael Bergstrom
Surfrider Foundation, O'ahu Chapter Coordinator

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SB-522

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 9:33:27 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cathy Goeggel	Testifying for Animal Rights Hawai'i	Support	Yes

Comments:

SB-522

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 11:29:02 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
doorae shin	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Doorae Shin and I am the Program Manager of Plastic Free Hawaii at Kokua Hawaii Foundation testifying in support of SB522.

I first got engaged with plastic/waste issues 6 years ago as a college student at UH Manoa, where we led a student campaign successfully phasing out polystyrene foam from our campus foodservice operations. As someone who has lived in Hawaii for over 8 years, working primarily on solutions to environmental issues, there is a clear global movement gaining unprecedented momentum to address and reduce single-use plastics and transition to more sustainable materials.

As an island community, we have an important responsibility to take care of our lands and our surrounding oceans. This is the essence of kuleana, of aloha 'Ā• ina that makes Hawai'i the pristine and special place that it is. With the mass culture of convenience depending upon single-use plastics for foodservice and packaging, we see large consequences to our land and our economy.

Plastics are made from petroleum, never truly breaking down and instead becoming increasingly pervasive in the environment over time, entering our food chain and harming animals. So, the environmental impacts of plastics are clear and require no debate, but the impact on our local tourist industry is one that is not discussed. With plastics being so lightweight, easily blowing out of trash cans and into the environment, and lasting forever in our environment, our ability to showcase our pristine environment to visitors becomes threatened.

The good news is that myriad alternatives exist to single-use plastics, with every major distributor in Hawaii offering paper and compostable alternatives to plastic disposable ware and with a wave of foodservice establishments voluntarily choosing to go plastic free in their operations. This bill affords ample time for businesses to prepare with a diverse working group to plan and assist in the next 3 years to make the implementation of this bill successful.

Having worked with schools, businesses, events and community groups in going plastic free, we are happy to act as resources for the State and for businesses to have a smooth transition.

We may consider including temporary financial hardship exemption for certain businesses who cannot afford a change in the date the bill would go into effect.

Mahalo for your consideration.
Dooraee Shin

SB-522

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 9:04:00 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kristie Wrigglesworth	Testifying for Pacific Whale Foundation	Support	Yes

Comments:

I represent Pacific Whale Foundation, an environmental 501c3 non-profit located in Maui that provides marine research, education and conservation programs to further our mission to protect our ocean through science and advocacy, and to inspire environmental stewardship.

Plastic debris is becoming a looming and increasing threat in today's world, with over 220 million tons of plastic produced annually. Eight million metric tons of plastic enter our oceans each year, and plastic production does not seem to be slowing down. Plastics do not biodegrade; instead, they go through a process called photodegrading, meaning they will break up into smaller and smaller pieces, but never truly are gone from the environment. With a menial recycling rate of only 9% in the United States, drastic measures need to be taken to combat our single-use plastic production. Proper legislation and dedicated working groups are a promising start to this issue and one that we hope spreads throughout other states and countries.

Pacific Whale Foundation supports legislation that is for the reduction of single-use plastics. While this bill covers multiple single-use plastic genera that comprise a large bulk of our marine debris, there are some revisions to the bill we are suggesting:

1. Adjust the language on the ban of plastic straws to prohibit a full-service restaurant, from providing single-use plastic straws, to consumers unless requested by the consumer. This would allow individuals that are not capable of using plastic straw alternatives, such as people with certain motor function or muscular disabilities, the exemption will prevent the alienation of members of the community who require plastic straws as a necessity. This action is similar to the plastic straw ban that just passed in California, which took into consideration these recommendations from the ADA.
2. The need for better language on the definition of "plastic". As it stands, bioplastics would be considered an acceptable alternative to regular plastics. Unfortunately, bioplastics are only degradable in a commercial composting facility, which is not available on every island in the state. There are currently only two commercial composting facilities in the state of Hawaii, one on the Big Island and one that is out of commission on Oahu. When in a landfill, bioplastics

are essentially traditional plastics that never biodegrade. To include all islands, bioplastics should not be listed as an acceptable alternative to traditional plastics.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this testimony in support of SB522.



**Written Testimony of
David Thorp
American Beverage Association**

**Before the Senate Committees on Agriculture and Environment & Commerce,
Consumer Protection and Health
Opposition to S.B. 522 – Relating to Plastic
February 6, 2019**

Good afternoon Chair Gabbard and Chair Baker Chair and members of the committees. Thank you for the opportunity to comment in opposition to S.B. 522 – relating to plastic.

I am David Thorp, senior director of government affairs for the American Beverage Association (ABA). The American Beverage Association is the trade association representing the non-alcoholic beverage industry. ABA represents hundreds of beverage producers, distributors, franchise companies and supporting businesses that employ more than 239,000 people across the country.

Beverage industry’s local impact on Hawaii’s economy

The beverage industry is an important part of Hawaii’s economy – and one of the few remaining industries still manufacturing on the Islands. Unlike most consumer products, many of our beverages, aluminum cans and plastic bottles are manufactured and distributed in Hawaii by local workers.

Non-alcoholic beverage companies in Hawaii provide more than 1,050 good-paying jobs across our state. The industry helps to support thousands more workers in businesses that rely in part on beverage sales for their livelihoods and, such as grocery stores, restaurants and theaters.

Plastic beverage bottles are not single-use products

S.B. 522 seeks to address the environmental concerns about the increased use of “single-use” food ware and packaging such as plastic straws, plastic bags, plastic stirrers, plastic utensils and polystyrene food containers. However, S.B 522 incorrectly defines plastic beverage bottles as a “single-use” consumer product. Taken together with aluminum cans, our packaging portfolio represents the most recyclable and highest value recyclable material of arguably any consumer product.

The beverage industry produces aluminum, glass and plastic beverage containers that are 100% recyclable – even the plastic caps are recyclable. All of these beverage containers can be collected, recycled and made into new beverage containers – and the plastic beverage bottles can be recycled and used in the manufacturing of other consumer goods such as carpets and clothing.

The recycled PET (rPET) from our bottles is in great demand all over the world. Global markets for these high-value plastics remain robust as companies as diverse as Nike and Ford Motor compete with our members for use of this material as an input to production.

Beverage containers – including plastic bottles – are recycled in Hawaii

Hawaii residents have various opportunities to recycle their beverage containers, including their plastic beverage bottles. Since January 2005, the state Department of Health has operated Hawaii's Deposit Beverage Container program (HI5) which has assisted residents to recycle over 7 billion beverage containers, including plastic bottles. Also, Honolulu offers many of its residents with curbside recycling which provides an easy way to recycle plastic bottles while other counties offer community recycling drop-off centers.

Conclusion

The beverage industry is working with recyclers, governments, and environmental groups nationally and globally to reduce the amount of virgin plastic used to make our bottles, recover more valuable plastic for remanufacturing, cut our carbon footprint in packaging and transportation, , and keep the places we live and work litter-free. Our member companies will continue to innovate and invest to lessen our environmental impact.

Plastic beverage bottles are 100% recyclable, should not be defined as a “single-use” product nor prohibited for purchase by Hawaii consumers.

Sincerely,
David Thorp

To: Hawaii State Senate Committees
Agriculture and Environment
Consumer Protection Health

From: Nabeya Maida
2919 Kapiolani Blvd ste 204
Honolulu, Hawaii 96826

Date: February 6, 2019 Hearing

Re: Foam Foodservice Container Ban Bills: SB 367, SB 522, SB 11

To whom it may concern,

My name is Kevin Suehiro, and I am the owner of Nabeya Maida, a small restaurant located in Kaimuki. We are a hot pot restaurant, so we use Styrofoam containers when our customers take home our broth. Styrofoam containers are good for insulation to keep the broth hot and are relatively inexpensive. Other containers which are available do not insulate as well, will be difficult to handle (due to the heat of the broths), and are in general very expensive compared to Styrofoam. We small, family oriented businesses have a hard time as it is keeping our costs low and affordable, and with always rising rents, always rising ingredient prices, and now the possibility of paying even more for take out containers, the hurdle we have to get over gets higher and higher every year. We are not one of your corporate restaurants who have deep pockets, we are the small, personable, flavorful restaurants that make Hawaii what it is, a place where people can enjoy different flavors from many cultures. By doing away with Styrofoam, it might prove to be the straw that broke the camel's back for many small businesses.

Please DO NOT ban foam containers as it will affect many, many local businesses in Hawaii. I know there are ecological reasons that exist, but there has to be some other way to resolve the problem without a rash and ultimate ban. When you walk around the island, before you make your decision, please take the time and think of how your decision will affect the community. Will small restaurant owners be capable of taking another punch to the gut? How would you feel if the small, hole in the wall restaurant that you've been going to for years, just closed up for good? This ban would negatively affect many small businesses in Hawaii, please vote against the ban.

Sincerely,

Kevin Suehiro
Owner
Nabeya Maida
(808) 739-7739

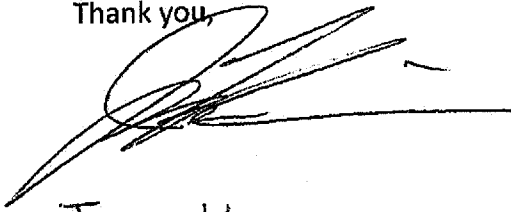
Senate AEN/CPH and CPH Hearing, Weds. Feb. 6, 2019
SB367, SB522, SB11 - Oppose Bans on Polystyrene Food Service Products

Dear Senator Gabbard and Senator Baker,

I have a small restaurant in the airport area. Hawaii is a very tough place to own a business. A statewide ban on foam food service products will make it even harder. I try not to pass on too much of my business expense to customers because everything is so competitive and I will lose business if my food prices are raised too much.

I have looked at compostable containers and it doesn't work for my business. The good ones are too expensive. The lower cost ones do not work well; hot rice or other food, and even salad make the containers soggy. Customers don't like it when the rice sticks to the container or tastes like pulp.

Thank you,



James Kim
Jets Fast Food
2957 Koapaka Street
(808) 833-7155
more1s@icloud.com

Weds. Feb 6, 2019 – Hearing

Oppose SB 367, SB 522, SB 11

Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Senate Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce

Dear Senators,

My name is Bryce Fujimoto and I am the VP at Shiro's Saimin. For the past 2 years we have been testing alternates to foam products. At this time the green alternatives do not retain hot and cold items effectively. In fact, some of the alternatives are dangerous because instead of being an insulator, they conduct heat. Being that they are hot to the touch from the outside a customer will be more likely to spill the contents and get burned while transporting.

Also, Hawaii currently has no means of composting green products. Thus, if I understand correctly on Oahu this will all be sent to H-Power to be burned anyway. This essentially will force smaller restaurants like us with already paper thin profit margins to use a much more expensive alternative without repurposing what the alternative was supposed to be used for.

The bottom line is why make the switch when we are not ready to do what we are supposed to do with the green containers? We need a more economical and safe alternative to foam products. Until then myself and Shiro's are pleading to stop bills that ban foam food containers. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Bryce Fujimoto
#488-8824

Shiro's Saimin Haven
98-020 Kamehameha Highway #109
Aiea, Hawaii 96701

SB 367, SB 522, SB 11 – Oppose Foam Food Container Ban Bills
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Senate Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce

Aloha Senators,

My name is Gwen Alejo-Herring. I am the owner and operator of the Queen Street Café & Grill in the Aiea Town Square.

My café prepares and sells plate lunches like kiawe grilled steak, firecracker chicken, ahi Belly and more. All entrees come with a choice of two scoops rice, garlic mash or brown rice, along with a choice of potato, mac or tossed salad.

We use foam food containers because it can handle the weight, moisture and retain the heat of our foods. My customers and I believe foam food container bans don't make sense because here on Oahu, foam food containers and even compostable containers all go to HPower for energy production. If there were a biodegradable/compostable plant, it then makes more sense for paying more for biodegradable containers.

I also provide lunch for schools. One school requires biodegradable plates, which I find to be flimsy and I worry about if and when a child may get burned from hot lunches. Another school that I work with uses the foam plates. I notice that the biodegradable plates are double or more the price of the foam plates.

If a foam food container ban becomes law, I will need to raise prices and I worry about losing customers. Everyone is very price-conscious.

Please do not support these foam container ban bills.

Sincerely,

Gwen Alejo-Herring
Queen Street Café & Grill
99-080 Kauhale Street
Aiea, HI 96701
galejoherring@gmail.com



KYD, Inc. dba k. yamada distributors

An independent leader in packaging and wholesale distribution

P.O. BOX 29669, Honolulu, Hawaii 96820 Phone: (808) 836-3221 Fax: (808) 833-8995

SB 522, Relating to Plastics

Senate AEN/CPH Hearing

Weds Feb 6, 2019

1:15 pm – Room 224

Position: Oppose

Chairs Gabbard and Baker, and Members of the Senate AEN/CPH Committee:

I am Dexter Yamada, President of KYD, Inc. dba: K. Yamada Distributors. KYD, Inc. is a local family run business that originated in the 1940's. Today, KYD, Inc and its sister company, Hawaii's Finest Products, LLC, manufacture packaging materials such as food-grade EPS (Expanded Polystyrene) food containers, and distribute a variety of packaging products, to include compostable containers.

As a kamaaina family business in Hawaii, we live here and care about our environment. We believe in stronger litter management programs that curtail land-based litter from migrating to waterways and the ocean. This means public education and consequences for proper disposal of litter and a call for civic responsibility.

We offer the following information for consideration as the Committee deliberates over SB 522, which is based on the assumption that polystyrene packaging materials are major contributors to marine debris, litter and greenhouse gas emissions:

- Polystyrene Foam ranks 6th in the Department of Transportation trash management Study

Table 5. Trash composition in volume (x 10⁻³ cy/ha-yr) per sample site. (Pg 30, C. Trash Characterization)

SITE #	PLASTIC BAGS AND	POLYSTYRENE FOAM	CIGARETTE BUTTS	METAL	PAPER	RECYCLABLE BEVERAGE CONTAINERS	MISCELLANEOUS
	PACKAGING						
1	0.19	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2	31.15	0.90	0.55	0.39	5.98	0.99	12.92
3	63.28	4.64	0.01	10.53	39.32	7.86	30.33
4	29.97	1.37	1.66	0.47	7.23	1.27	0.29
5	43.67	1.17	0.03	2.72	37.06	1.87	85.04
6	0.23	0.04	0.00	0.30	0.00	0.00	0.00
7	43.68	0.81	0.00	0.00	2.39	2.50	12.75
8	4.80	1.40	0.00	0.41	1.69	0.00	0.00
9	18.01	0.10	0.00	1.35	3.27	8.81	8.00
10	146.99	0.48	0.09	0.00	34.82	25.26	7.20
	#1	#6	#7	#5	#3	#4	#2
T	381.97	10.91	2.34	16.17	131.76	48.56	156.53



A ban that singles out food-grade EPS containers does little to reduce litter or ocean debris harmful to marine life and the environment. Litter is litter; there is no such thing as environmentally responsible litter.

- PS foam food containers are no more harmful to fish and ocean wildlife than other manmade materials, and are not likely to become marine debris

Marine debris is any manmade material that enters the marine environment. None of it belongs in our oceans regardless of what kind of material it is made of - whether wood, metal, plastic, or paper. A recent Ocean Conservancy study listed the most common types of litter that are found along the world's coastlines, based on data gathered during three decades of international coastal clean-up efforts. Fishing gear, balloons and plastic bags were estimated to pose the greatest entanglement risk to seabirds, sea turtles and marine animals. Plastic bags and plastic utensils ranked as the greatest threats for ingestion.

NOAA (National Ocean and Atmospheric Administration) states that the 5 most common items found during the International Coastal Cleanup are cigarette butts, food wrappers, plastic beverage bottles, plastic bottle caps, and plastic straws and drink stirrers. Plastics can enter into the ocean through ineffective or improper waste management, intentional or accidental dumping and littering on shorelines or at sea, or through storm water runoff. (Trash Talk: Marine Debris and Plastics, NOAA, Sept. 17, 2015)

Locally, the composition of ocean debris appears to be similar to NOAA's list of most common items. Anecdotal testimony from a Big Island marine biologist said that 25-89% of the island's ocean debris is land-based, predominantly straws, wrappers, insulation, shipping containers, hot coffee cups, meat trays, and saimin containers. EPS foam containers were about 1% of the debris. Although large foam block packaging, ice chests and coolers are often found in coastal cleanups, they are usually excluded from ban bills.

- Banning Food Grade PS Foam Containers Will Not Reduce Litter

According to Steven Stein, an environmental scientist who studies litter, banning one material will not reduce the overall litter in waterways. "Food-service containers made of polystyrene are a minor component of litter and, because there is no reusable alternative, a ban simply will substitute other materials that also end up in our waterways."

<https://www.latimes.com/opinion/opinion-la/la-ol-polystyrene-food-takeout-containers-ban-20170628-story.html>

On a local level, the Honolulu City Auditor's Single-Use Polystyrene Food Containers and Plastic Bag Study also conclude that polystyrene bans are not effective in reducing litter, and such containers are a minor component of litter. Like Stein, the Honolulu City Auditor states that because there is no reusable alternative, a ban simply substitutes other containers that will likely be littered. Both Stein and the City Auditor cite the California



State Water Resources Board in its NPDES application noted that a ban of PS foam food containers resulted in the substitution of other products that were discarded in the same manner.

Personal reusable food containers are not a takeout option due to FDA regulations that restrict food service businesses from accepting personal, reusable consumer takeout containers due to sanitary and health reasons. Food container replacement for polystyrene containers, whether it is paper, fiber or plastic, would likely be littered in the same fashion. http://www.honolulu.gov/rep/site/oca/oca_docs/PS_Ban_Study_Final_Report.pdf

- Replacing PS foam carries significant and unnecessary costs to small locally-owned restaurants and lower-income consumers

As a local distributor of food packaging materials, polystyrene as well as alternative products, we find that polystyrene foodservice products are generally more economical to use than other disposable foodservice products and reusable food service items. The wholesale price of single-use polystyrene foodservice products is often approximately two to three times less than other single-use containers, and four to five times less than a comparable reusable foodservice item when the costs of equipment, labor, water, electricity, and detergent costs are included. This allows schools, hospitals and other institutions to make better use of their limited budgets. For example, local Hawaii pricing shows the average compostable 8 oz cup costs more than twice the average polystyrene cup. This means the razor thin profit margins under which restaurants operate will be cut even lower. This may well translate to rising costs to the consumer, our local citizens and the small business owners working all over the island.

The following is the City Auditor's data about estimated costs to business owners which will more than likely increase cost to consumers.

Exhibit 3.4 Monthly and Annual Cost Estimates for Non-Polystyrene Food Containers by Types of Restaurants

Source: OmniTrak and Office of City Auditor

Type	Monthly Cost Increase Estimate	Annual Cost Increase Estimate (Monthly x 12)
Total:	\$ 294.64	\$3,535.68
Small Restaurant (1-10 employees)	\$ 293.75	\$3,525.00
Medium Restaurant (11-50 employees)	\$222.72	\$2,672.64
Large Restaurant (50 or more employees)	\$420.00	\$5,040.00

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony.



Nicole Chatterson

Director, Zero Waste O'ahu

oahu.zerowaste@gmail.com

808.561.7730

February 5, 2019

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Chair Baker, AEN and CPH Committee Members:

My name is Nicole Chatterson, and I am Mānoa resident writing in **strong support of SB 522**, the plan to phase out single-use plasticss by July 2025.

If single-use plastic consumption maintains on the current trajectory, **plastic use will account of 20% of our fossil fuel use by 2050¹**. While recycling and waste-to-energy are often cited as ways to deal with this plastic waste—we have recently seen that the recycling markets are too unstable to offer a consistent, sustainable solution to our waste. Compounding this, roughly 80% of the Global North's 'recyclable' plastics (exported from places like Hawai'i) are not recycled and instead escape into the marne environment.²

While we have the option to incinerate plastic for energy locally via H-POWER, this is also a flawed approach. Per megawatt, **H-POWER produces 3 times more greenhouse gas emissions than Kahe—O'ahu's largest oil-based energy plant.**³ Further, **H-POWER requires 800,000 tons of waste annually** to maintain operations and profit margins. This means that waste production is incentivized, driving more upstream impacts through the extraction, production, and transportation of products-turned-trash. According to the U.S. EPA, about 42% of the U.S. greenhouse gas footprint results from this production-disposal chain⁴.

If Hawai'i is indeed serious about our committment to the Paris Climate Accord and mitigating our climate footprint, it is clear that single-use plastic reduction is a necessary part of our climate change prevention tool-kit.

¹ UNEP (2018). SINGLE-USE PLASTICS: A Roadmap for Sustainability

² World Economic Forum (2015). The New Plastics Economy. Rethinking the future of plastics.

³ <https://ghgdata.epa.gov/ghgp/main.do>

⁴ <https://www.epa.gov/smm/epa-sustainable-materials-management-program-strategic-plan-fiscal-years-2017-2022>



Plastic pollution reduction and movement away from a single-use economy are directly tied to the Aloha + Challenge goal to reduce our solid waste footprint and build sustainable communities. Further, plastic and single-use reduction also correspond to the following [United Nations Sustainable Development Goals](#), which have been adopted as a framework by the Hawai'i State Senate.

- **SDG 12 = Responsible Production & Consumption**
- **SDG 13 = Climate Action**
- **SDG 14 = Life Below Water**
- **SDG 15 = Life on Land -**

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Nicole Chatterson

Director, Zero Waste O'ahu

SB-522

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 9:24:17 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Devin Moody	Testifying for kailua Beach Adventures	Support	No

Comments:

As a company and as a resident of Oahu I urge immediate support of this Bill. Our business revolves around the ocean and it has become shocking to see more and more plastics every year. The financial loss that comes from plastics will be great and crippling. The joy of exploring our offshore islands and waters will become shadowed by the dead sea-birds, entangled turtles and garbage washing up in every wave. The effects of plastics are long lasting and for every day we produce more, we can add thousands of years that these items will be found breaking into smaller and smaller pieces in our oceans. To not act is to commit a crime against our future.



**TESTIMONY OF TINA YAMAKI
PRESIDENT
RETAIL MERCHANTS OF HAWAII
February 6, 2019**

Re: SB 522 Relating to Plastics

Good afternoon Chairpersons Gabbard and Baker and members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture & Environmental and Committee on Commerce Consumer Protection & Health. I am Tina Yamaki, President of the Retail Merchants of Hawaii and I appreciate this opportunity to testify.

The Retail Merchants of Hawaii (RMH) as founded in 1901 and is a statewide, not for profit trade organization committed to the growth and development of the retail industry in Hawaii. The retail industry is one of the largest employers in the state, employing 25% of the labor force.

The Retail Merchants of Hawaii OPPOSES SB 522 Relating to Plastics. Bans are not the simple answer. We need to maintain a fair balance regarding food service containers, bags, straws and other products and look at a coordinated litter reduction programs.

Businesses respond to the wants of the customers that patronize their establishments all while operating on a very thin profit margin. They look for cost effective food containers that ensure that products are durable enough to protect people from spills and burns as well as keep food protected and fresh longer by sustaining appropriate temperature.

A mere substitution of polystyrene type containers, plastic straws, beverage containers and bags to another type will NOT result in reduced trash as more than likely the substitution product would be discarded in the same manner.

We need to be looking into a comprehensive litter reduction program that not only takes into account educating the public, but also looking for alternative solutions like public trash cans that are designed so that it will keep its content from flying out.

We also want to point out that the alternative products often creates more waste in volume and energy as well as increase air and water pollution – in the manufacturing of and in the transportation to the business.

In addition, we question if this measure would violate interstate commerce by banning the sale of prepackaged food items like that of Cup of Noodle and single use beverage containers like bottled water.

We urge you to hold this measure. Mahalo again for this opportunity to testify.



Chamber of Commerce HAWAII
The Voice of Business

**Testimony to the Senate Committees on Agriculture and Environment, and
Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health
Wednesday, February 6, 2019 at 1:15 P.M.
Conference Room 224, State Capitol**

RE: SB 522, RELATING TO PLASTIC

Chairs Gabbard and Baker, Vice Chairs Ruderman and Chang, and Members of the Committees:

The Chamber of Commerce Hawaii ("The Chamber") **opposes** SB 522, which prohibits the use of plastic bottles, utensils, stirring sticks, polystyrene foam containers, and straws by state agencies by July 1, 2021 and by businesses selling food or beverages by July 1, 2022. Additionally, this bill would ban the distribution or sale of plastic bags after July 1, 2023 and the sale or distribution of single-use plastic containers after July 1, 2025. SB 522 would also create the plastic source reduction working group

The Chamber is Hawaii's leading statewide business advocacy organization, representing about 2,000+ businesses. Approximately 80% of our members are small businesses with less than 20 employees. As the "Voice of Business" in Hawaii, the organization works on behalf of members and the entire business community to improve the state's economic climate and to foster positive action on issues of common concern.

We **oppose** SB 522 because it will raise the cost for both business and consumers and will impact jobs in the local manufacturing industry of FDA approved, food-grade food service containers. Creating a mandate for the use of compostable and other plastic containers stifles the free market place, where businesses and consumers have the right to choose among the various types of safe, FDA approved food service containers.

However, the Chamber is not opposed to the section in this bill that would create a plastic source reduction working group and bring in all sides of this issue to begin working towards a solution. Businesses across the State have already begun to voluntarily ban polystyrene containers and recently the Counties have begun to introduce and pass legislation. Through this working group, we can look at the results of these legislative actions to see how we can help to support a coordinated and comprehensive litter reduction program that is not just focused on plastic, but other forms of waste as well.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

SB-522

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 5:59:57 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Natalie McKinney	Testifying for Kokua Hawaii Foundation	Support	No

Comments:

SB-522

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 11:19:21 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Christian Robbins	Testifying for Kokua Hawaii Foundation	Support	No

Comments:

SB367, SB522, SB11 - Oppose Bans on Polystyrene Food Service Products
Senate AEN/CPH and CPH Hearing, Weds. Feb. 6, 2019

Dear Senator Gabbard and Senator Baker,

My name is Aaron Wolfe. I am a local male just starting out in the food business. I am the owner of HNA Food Services LLC (Tsukenjo's)

It's hard enough to make it in this business with all the expenses, insurance, hike in food costs etc...Let alone having to worry about higher cost of plates. I oppose these bills and believe government should leave us be. We have enough rules and regulations to abide by. Something like this could put us out of business.

If people are worried about trash getting out to the ocean, they should look at more clean up of homeless on the streets. I pay for my restaurant's bagged trash to be picked up street side. Many times the homeless rip open the bags and then I have to clean it up the next morning.

Aaron Wolfe
HNA Food Services LLC dba: Tsukenjo's
1148 Bishop Street
Hon, HI 96813



Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Russell E. Ruderman, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health

Re: SUPPORT of SB 367 – RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, and SB 522 – RELATING TO PLASTIC

Aloha Chairs Gabbard and Baker, Vice Chairs Ruderman and Chang, members of the Senate Committees on Agriculture and Environment, and Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health,

Dolphin Quest strongly support SB 367 and SB 522. These measures have the potential to reduce plastic-based pollution in the State of Hawaii and ultimately help protect our natural resources and human health.

One of Hawaii's greatest assets is its natural beauty. Unfortunately, plastic debris is one of the most common forms of litter found in Hawaii. We have seen this first-hand during Dolphin Quest's decades of participation in beach, stream, and highway clean-ups.

It is well known that plastic has a devastating effect on Hawaii's beaches, the marine ecosystem, wildlife, and human health. There is also growing concern about the negative impact marine debris may also have on tourism. It is essential that we get ahead of these problems through influential legislation just like this.

Ingestion, entanglement, and habitat degradation are just a few of the complex issues related to plastic pollution. Ingestion of micro-plastics has been observed at every trophic level, from large whales to even corals and zooplankton. High levels of plastic-based persistent organic pollutants (POPs) have been detected in the tissues of marine mammals, sharks, and other large predatory animals due to bioaccumulation and the biomagnification up the trophic system as results of this ingestion. Many of these POPs are known endocrine disrupters and there is growing evidence that humans may also be at risk. In addition to this, the plastic monomer used in manufacturing expanded plastic has been classified by the US National Institutes of Health and the International Agency for Research on Cancer as a possible human carcinogen. Unnecessary plastics need to be regulated for the health and well-being of all.

It is our duty and our responsibility to protect the land and water that allow us to thrive. We must safeguard the future of wildlife and our children so that all may have the opportunity to enjoy nature unadulterated. Supporting this measure would keep Hawaii at the forefront of conservation action and leadership.

Dolphin Quest is an organization of marine mammal specialists, animal advocates and ocean stewards with two business locations in Hawaii. We've championed public education, conservation, and scientific study related to marine mammals and our ocean for thirty years. This issue is critically important to us and we respectfully ask that you support SB 367 and SB 522.

Respectfully yours,

L. Rae Stone, DVM
Dolphin Quest

SB-522

Submitted on: 1/28/2019 6:28:48 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joshua Kay	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Better to spend the money educating the public on the proper recycling of plastic bottles, etc. I believe the majority of Hawaii residents know better than to let their plastics go into the ocean or waste stream. This legislation would inconvenience the majority of people. The real culprits are the people who are uneducated about proper recycling, or who just don't care about the environment.

SB-522

Submitted on: 1/28/2019 8:20:21 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Autumn Ness	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-522

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 3:40:41 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Randy Gonce	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

SB-522

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 10:19:33 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joy Bitonio	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB522 and SB367: Strong Support

Hearing: February 6, 2019

Dear Members of the AEN/CPH Committee

As a resident of Kaneohe and an active member of Surfrider Foundation's O'ahu Chapter, I have become increasingly concerned about plastics on our beaches, in our nearshore waters, and now found in marine life that calls these areas home.

The time to move away from convenience single use products and toward the sale and use of truly compostable solutions (as opposed to "green-washing" items that are only compostable in industrial facilities that, to my knowledge, do not currently exist in the state), reusable non-plastic food & beverage receptacles, and a circular economy is now. It has become a significant threat to the health of our islands and with over 500 million plastic straws used and discarded per day in the United States alone, I strongly support SB522. As a country, our citizens produce more than double per capita plastic waste of China and five times that of Indonesia, while (with Europe), housing 95% of the companies, lobbyists, and industries in the plastic economy (WEF 2016). By centering our eye on, Hawai'i, the U.S. state with the highest rates of waste generation (doubling the national average) and the beaches inundated with the Pacific Gyre's rapidly increasing plastic pollution (CNN 2016) we are at the heart of the global plastic problem. Up to 80% of the plastic in our oceans comes from land-based sources, estimated at 5-13 million tons of plastic. Hawai'i is uniquely positioned to focus the narrative of plastic solutions and our State has the opportunity to lead the world in a progressive movement that cultivates change at the source.

The United States environmental protection agency (EPA) outlines a waste pyramid in which reduction and re-use stand as the pinnacle to effective waste management. Our Cities, Counties, and State need to rethink the way they create, handle, and discuss waste. Surfrider Foundation believes that we can become a leader in a regenerative economy in which we value reuse and recovery over the single-use items. Single-use plastics, like straws & polystyrene foam, are a fossil fuel driven, carbon emitting industry

that has no place in an island economy where space is limited and our environmental health is the most important issue to our economy.

To date, the majority of dialogue regarding solutions to the plastic problem revolves around how we focus attention on regions of the world that have poorer waste management. These solutions may help slow the flow of waste into our oceans or clean up what is already there, but do not help solve the underlying issue. As our ocean fills with more plastic by weight than fish (Washington Post 2016) by 2050, as we have seen a 610% increase in raw plastic production since 1975 (Jambeck 2015), and as 95% of plastic packaging globally (resulting in \$80-120 billion cost) is lost after a single-first use (WEF 2016), the solutions must be more geared towards a shift away from the fossil fuel based, greenhouse gas creating industry of plastics. Alternatives derived from compostable materials are widely available now as a stop-gap effort as we shift our economy back towards a system of reuse that is at the foundation of both Hawaiian culture and the ethic that this country began on.

The costs of plastic pollution are mounting in multiple sectors - financially, ecologically, and socially. Plastic is costing cities, counties, states, & countries millions of dollars and our global economy billions. Costs are passed to the taxpayers by burdening our stormwater management systems with the need for expensive best management practices and the costs of cleanups. Hawai'i State Department of Transportation (HDOT) has produced a trash plan that shows styrofoam and plastic bags as the top two contributors to the waste stream, while in California, the Natural Resource Defense Council (NRDC) created a plastic cleanup valuation study for 90+ counties in California. The study concluded that CA taxpayers are paying \$428 million per year to clean up plastic through storm drain management, street sweeping, and marine cleanups. San Diego County (with population of 1.3 equivalent to Hawaii) spends \$14 million alone on plastic cleanup. The United Nations Environmental Program has estimates in the billions for the global cost to cleanup plastics with \$14 billion for marine plastic alone.

A recent study published in the renowned journal of *Science* describes the mounting issues of plastics on our fragile and threatened reefs. The study describes corals as being 90% more likely to be diseased when plastic sits on the reef. The billions of pieces of plastic already in the ocean are scarring reefs and then likely infecting them with the contamination that comes from their chemical properties that allow for microbial colonization of pathogens. In other words, plastics bio-accumulate toxins in the water and thus can transfer such toxins to other organisms like coral. This is yet another toxic consequence of plastics in our oceans, of which many more are described in the points below.

The effects to marine life in our oceans are mounting. 50 to 80 percent of dead sea turtles have ingested plastic. Plastic bags, which resemble jellyfish, are the most commonly found item in sea turtles' stomachs. Worldwide, 82 of 144 examined bird species contained plastic debris in their stomachs; and in some cases, 80 percent of the population had consumed plastic. Researchers found that 66 percent of Giant Petrel shorebirds regurgitated plastic when feeding their chicks. Commercial fish, such as

Opah and Bigeye Tuna, consume plastic, which could significantly reduce global populations. A University of Hawaii study reports “[i]n the two [Opah] species found in Hawaiian waters, 58 percent of the small eye opah and 43 percent of the big-eye opah had ingested some kind of debris.”

On a recent field trip visiting with the Marine Mammal Research Program, Surfrider Oahu members were guided through the facilities where beached and dead Pilot Whales had been examined. The stomach contents of the three animals found on O’ahu, Lana’i, and Kaua’i revealed between 15-30 lbs of plastic in the gut. Plastic does not breakdown like organic material and as marine animals continue to ingest the plastics their stomachs eventually fill to a state in which they can no longer consume enough food to address proper nutritional maintenance. This is similar to the problem widely shared with Laysan Albatross in Papahānaumokuākea.

Ultimately, we have to reduce the problem at its source and work towards a circular economy. Single-use plastics are an unneeded convenience that our society must learn to move away from. The alternatives exist and we must exercise some sort of ethic over our consumer behavior. Our kuleana is to protect our public trust resources like our shorelines for all generations into the future and currently we are not fulfilling that leadership role. I strongly urges the passing of SB522 and SB367, eliminating common single-use plastics, straws, polystyrene food service products, and plastic bags from our waste streams and environment.

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

Joy Bitonio

Proud Member and Volunteer with Surfrider Foundation Oahu

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SB-522

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 10:19:58 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
chelsea	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Plastic pollution is a global problem but is most prominent in coastal areas and especially islands like our own, where it collects on beaches and poses a threat to marine life. It was not that long ago that we lived in a world free of plastics, but there are many benefits to plastics especially in the medical world. This bill addresses single-use plastics that are used for food and beverage consumption that would be the easiest type of plastic to rid our environment of by completely banning it. Many businesses have already been proactive in making a change to not use single-use plastics, but it's not enough. State regulation is needed to create more drastic changes which is why I support this bill. I do recommend changing the effective dates to be 2020 or 2021. There is no need to wait. Plastic never breaks down and another 6 years we would have to wait for this ban to go into effect would just create more waste that not only we'll have to deal with but generations to come.

SB-522

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 1:47:56 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lois Crozer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this wholeheartedly! We MUST reduce our single use plastic or our oceans will drown in waste. We are reliant on the food chain, and this is being poisoned!

SB-522

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 2:22:19 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Devin Wolery	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

SB-522

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 3:01:08 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brett Kulbis	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

SB-522

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 12:26:23 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
cassidy	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-522

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 12:26:48 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nanea Kay	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-522

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 12:27:17 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Paul Balazs	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-522

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 12:27:53 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lei Shimabukuro	Testifying for Kaiser High School	Support	No

Comments:

SB-522

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 12:28:03 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lawrence Komo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-522

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 12:28:14 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Isa	Testifying for Wipeout Crew	Support	No

Comments:

SB-522

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 12:28:20 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
emily ramirez miranda	Testifying for wipeout crew	Support	No

Comments:

SB-522

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 12:28:25 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alden	Testifying for Kaiser High School Wipeout Crew	Support	No

Comments:

SB-522

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 12:28:40 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Conrad Morgan	Testifying for Kaiser High School Wipeout Crew	Support	No

Comments:

SB-522

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 12:28:51 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jayna Westbrooks	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-522

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 12:29:36 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jordan May	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-522

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 12:30:04 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kamryn Conway	Testifying for Wipeout Crew Kaiser High School	Support	No

Comments:

SB-522

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 12:32:19 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ashtyn Cummings	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-522

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 12:38:02 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Thomas Osa	Testifying for Wipeoutcrew	Support	No

Comments:

SB-522

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 12:40:27 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sarah Haberman	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-522

Submitted on: 1/31/2019 12:03:00 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lauren DelaCalzada	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-522

Submitted on: 1/31/2019 12:39:15 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lillian Renfro-Robea	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha, I'm wrting in strong SUPPORT of SB522 which will place strong bans on the use of multiple plastics used throughout our food system. Our land and oceanic environments have been severely polluted by non-biodegradable plastics and we must take strong action to prevent further exposure of marine and bird life to these plastic hazards. Alternatives to plastic already exist and companies will be more inclined to use them when bans like this are in place.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

SB-522

Submitted on: 1/31/2019 3:59:54 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dyson Chee	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a 16 year old high schooler I strongly support SB 522. SB 522 will help to show that the State of Hawaii is committed to being green and preserving this Earth for future generations. Please pass SB 522. Mahalo.

SB-522

Submitted on: 1/31/2019 4:37:53 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Jones, MD	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a local physician and surfer, I support SB522. We have safer, more environmentally friendly materials. People are learning to bring their own packaging and utensils.

Please pass this bill.

Respectfully, David R Jones, MD

SB-522

Submitted on: 1/31/2019 4:43:30 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kathleen Elliott	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a local health care provider and ocean swimmer, I support SB522. Polystyrene is not safe for our environment, for marine animal health or for human health. There are other materials that are more environmentally friendly than polystyrene and plastic.

Businesses can learn to use other products and we consumers can learn to bring our own containers and utensils. I'm willing to pay a little more for more environmentally friendly options if it costs the business more.

Please pass this bill.

Aloha, Kathleen Elliott, RN, PA-C

Honolulu

SB-522

Submitted on: 1/31/2019 7:28:49 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mio Chee	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in strong support of SB522.

SB-522

Submitted on: 1/31/2019 7:29:59 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Chee	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support SB522.

SB-522

Submitted on: 1/31/2019 7:31:16 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Micah Chee	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-522

Submitted on: 1/31/2019 8:32:50 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Phil Schlieder	Testifying for Delphi Cinema	Support	No

Comments:

Thank you for your time in hearing my testimony.

I am writing to express my support in removing plastic bottles, utensils, stirring sticks, polystyrene foam containers, and straws from our day to day lives on all levels. Even the most well intentioned people still will end up using some of these items if they are presented to them, myself included. Thats why I believe that these need to be banned.

I am an avid ocean enthusiast. Whether its scuba diving, surfing, snorkeling, free diving, swimming, the ocean environment is a place I find much beauty and peace. It is imparitive that we act now to move this sort of legislation forward. It is up to our representitives to hear the peoples wishes and act accordingly.

Mahalo,

-Phil Schlieder

SB-522

Submitted on: 1/31/2019 9:36:28 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cate Waidyatilleka	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Glad to see this!

SB-522

Submitted on: 1/31/2019 10:21:07 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Debbie Millikan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-522

Submitted on: 1/31/2019 11:24:19 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
A Kathleen Lee	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

It doesn't take too much intelligence to realize that you can't destroy the Styrofoam. We need to stop using it. What are we litterbugs where the litter cannot be removed & kills marine life & our future marine food supply. We need to this at any cost, as once we put it in the environment, it is too late to fix our mistake. Our public interest is keen and our will has been made known in so many testimonies, it should be clear we need to ban Styrofoam at least from use by our state agencies right now• — i,• and hopefully in our counties everywhereöŸ™öŸ• ½

Your action is needed by this and all future generations,

April Lee

North Kohala

Aloha Lawmakers,

I strongly **SUPPORT SB 522** –

to help protect the delicate ecosystems of Hawai'i.



Mahalo,

Mary Overbay
Puunene, HI

Aloha Lawmakers,

I strongly **SUPPORT SB 522** –

to help protect the delicate ecosystems of Hawai'i.



Mahalo,

Brian Murphy
Maui, Hawai'i

SB-522

Submitted on: 2/1/2019 9:10:36 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shannon Rudolph	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Support

SB-522

Submitted on: 2/2/2019 8:26:32 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Fawn Liebengood	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-522

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 9:34:45 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lauryn	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-522

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 11:09:17 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kaylee Gustafson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB522**Relating to Plastic.**

Aloha, my name is Kaylee Gustafson and I am in the graduating class of 2021 at Le Jardin Academy in Kailua, O’ahu. I am testifying in support of SB522 and wish for it to become a law.

I believe this bill should be passed because plastic is one of the most used materials in the world and it is having negative effects on our Earth. Every day I see lots of plastic trash on the side of the roads, highways, and even on the beautiful beaches and forests of O’ahu. Plastic is harming and killing so many animals because plastic does not break down. This issue is even more important to address in Hawai’i because of all of the native animals that are endemic to these islands. If these animals continue to die killed from our overuse of plastic, then they may become extinct. If this bill is passed, Hawai’i will be able to aid the conservation of the native animals in Hawai’i’s fragile environment. Another reason this bill is important is that it could decrease the amount of trash piling up on our island, hindering its beauty and sustainability.

The bill states that as the time goes on, so will more beneficial changes being made to help O’ahu’s land and beauty. I believe that banning plastic and other non-decomposable materials will help Hawai’i to preserve its natural beauty and wildlife.

As I am a student in high school, I hope to see great changes being made from now until I graduate. And through the years, if I ever return to the islands, I hope

to see more of Hawai'i's natural beauty and less of the plastic and trash that pollutes it.

Best Regards,

Kaylee Gustafson

Student of the Graduating Class of 2021

Le Jardin Academy

SB-522

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 11:09:25 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brooke Lum	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB522**RELATING TO PLASTIC**

Hello, My name is Brooke Lum, and I am a sophomore student at Le Jardin Academy, in the graduating class of 2021. I am testifying in support of the bill 522, and would like to see this bill become a law.

I support this bill because the use of plastic and other non-biodegradable materials has been a pressing issue, as its presence has been polluting the life in Hawaii and in the world. I have lived in Kailua, Oahu my entire life, and I have noticed the copious amounts of plastics and styrofoam trash damaging the islands. Plastics are the reason for death in marine and bird life, and has become a prevalent issue in the conservation of Hawaii's indigenous wildlife. By prohibiting the use of these materials, and replace them with biodegradable, less polluting materials, there will be a greater preservation of life. By eliminating single use plastic bottles, utensils, stirring sticks, polystyrene foam containers, straws and then banning the distribution or sale of plastic bags and single use plastic beverage containers, we will be supporting the efforts for a cleaner and less plastic reliant future. The preservation of Hawaiian culture, indigenous life, and health of its people will be supported by the banning of plastic and nonbiodegradable materials because plastics are one of the greatest invasive species pressing in on Hawaii.

It is understood that plastics and non-biodegradable materials have become a large part in everyday life, however I have faith that this challenge will be taken on and pave the way for a cleaner Hawaii.

In order to continue and pass Hawaii's culture to generations to come, this issue must be taken care of. The dangerous and long lasting impacts these materials impose will devastate life in Hawaii, and all throughout the world if it is not addressed.

Sincerely,

Brooke Lum

Sophomore student

Le Jardin Academy

SB-522

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 12:24:28 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Leah Paulino	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-522

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 12:29:11 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nanea Lo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Hello,

My name is Nanea Lo and I'm a resident of Kaimukā, O'ahu. I am writing in STRONG SUPPORT of this bill. I believe that this bill will help make Hawai'i a better, sustainable, and more responsible one in order to help protect our natural resources from pollution.

Thank you,

Nanea Lo

SB-522

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 12:57:00 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Aubry Casey	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

With the critical state our planet is in, it is so important to all areas to commit to a plastic-free, zero waste economy. Moving forward with this in Hawaii is huge and would be a great example for other areas of our country and planet. To be on the forefront of this example and opportunity is something Hawaii will be respected for as well as thanked by its residents and the many visitors coming through each year!

SB-522

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 1:48:15 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Marissa Miller	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a representative of the youth in Hawaii, I am writing in support of SB 522 as a step towards creating a zero waste community here in the islands. This is an important measure for the keiki of Hawaii because we must take better care of our lands and resources with the intent of preserving them for the future of our generation and for future generations after us. Zero waste measures are necessary in order to prevent widespread pollution of our environment and waste of vital limited resources. Furthermore, plastics are one of the most commonly waste and polluting materials, and they are extremely detrimental to our health and the health of our surrounding environment and the organisms with which we share this earth. Plastics do not break down organically; instead they break up into tiny microplastics that are nearly impossible to remove from the environment and which enter our food chain, carrying persistent organic pollutants and chemicals in high concentrations—essentially poisoning the animals and people that end up ingesting them. Furthermore, there are numerous alternatives to explore that can replace plastics with a much lower level of waste and toxicity. We must transition towards a zero waste culture, economy, and society if we are to sustain human life as well as the life of other organisms on these islands and on this planet. As an island chain in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, we see how important it is to conserve resources and protect the environment in which we live. We must stop trashing this place and move away from disposable lifestyles to make way for a healthier more sustainable future. Thank you for your consideration and I hope that you will pass this bill on behalf of the keiki and future generations who will inherit these lands, and also in respect of the kupuna who came before us and those who inhabited these lands long before we did.

SB-522

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 1:52:24 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michael Chavez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I believe that what is not sustainable towards the health and wellness of our global environment should not take precedence over the decisions that have an impact at the local level. the phrase "reduce, reuse, recycle" has gained attention for very important reasons regarding the use and distribution of plastic. However, I support the bill because it allows for the creation of groups to think about ways to eliminate plastic usage and replace with alternative, sustainable methods. I agree with the people who stand behind this bill and wholeheartedly support what is the best interest for our natural environment.

SB-522

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 2:16:45 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Monika Haar	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

The food business is one of the leading causes of plastic pollution. Please prohibit the use of these single use plastic materials distributed by food businesses, so that we can limit the amount of pollution that is entering our environment and our food chain. Food related single use plastic is an urgent issue that causes many health problems to humans, as well as deaths to millions of animals on an annual basis.

SB-522

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 2:42:52 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Coleman Langstaff	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am writing this in support of SB522. In previous testimonies I spoke of a new Hawai'i, where late lunches aren't stereotyped into harmful styrofoam polystyrene containers. Plastics are a part of this problem. While I understand they are a different type of plastic(s)/chemicals, I know that there are other options. The time constraints laid out in the bill should be more than enough time for businesses to adjust, and I believe that Hawai'i can achieve these goals. Along with SB11 and SB 367, Hawai'i can be the start of a revolution inside America, and continue to push humanity in the right direction of a more sustainable planet.

SB-522

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 5:05:20 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stefani Specker-Cook	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a student and young citizen living in Honolulu I will be the one seeing the effects from humans that will be destroying our home and world.

Plastic is a material made to last forever, yet 33 percent of all plastic water bottles, bags and straws are used just once and thrown away. Plastic cannot biodegrade; it breaks down into smaller and smaller pieces. Even today sitting at Makapu'u beach on O'ahu, swimming amongst the billions of pieces of plastic that wash up on one of the many beaches in Hawai'i. Our resources are so important to us that we should be doing everything we can to protect. There are thousands of landfills in the United States. Buried beneath each one of them, toxic chemicals from plastics drain out and seep into groundwater, flowing downstream into lakes and rivers. Even plankton, the tiniest creatures in our oceans, are eating microplastics and absorbing their hazardous chemicals. The tiny, broken down pieces of plastic are displacing the algae needed to sustain larger sea life who feed on them. Toxic chemicals leach out of plastic and are found in the blood and tissue of nearly all of us (humans). Exposure to them is linked to cancers, birth defects, impaired immunity, endocrine disruption and other ailments. Chemicals in plastic which give them their rigidity or flexibility (flame retardants, bisphenols, phthalates and other harmful chemicals) are oily poisons that repel water and stick to petroleum-based objects like plastic debris. So, the toxic chemicals that leach out of plastics can accumulate on other plastics. This is a serious concern with increasing amounts of plastic debris accumulating in the world's oceans.

As a tourist capitol of the world we need to set an example to all of the people entering and leaving Hawai'i. Everything suffers: tourism, recreation, business, the health of humans, animals, fish and birds—because of plastic pollution. The financial damage continuously being inflicted is inestimable.

STEFANI

SB-522

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 5:45:04 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alex Filardo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

State agencies DO NOT need plastic/styrofoam containers or cutlery. The agencies do not rely on the sales or distribution of products that would require such plastic. This can easily be removed from state agency facilities and replaced with a more sustainable option. It is time to start thinking about our Aina.

Mahalo

SB-522

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 6:08:08 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jordan Macklin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

We need to get real and take action to save our planet. I don't want our islands turning into a pile of plastic, neither should any of you. Let's start taking care of the land that gives us life.

SB-522

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 6:44:50 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mackenzie Preble	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Single use plastics are a wasteful and dangerous practice. They are used once and then discarded, more often than not as litter. As litter, polystyrene foam can be ingested by marine and avian animals that mistake the plastic as their food source. Not only does this diminish their appetite, thereby making them eat less and receive insufficient nutrients, the ingestion of plastic leaches chemicals that are known to be carcinogenic and immunodepressants. As such, they will affect the health of those animals and the health of generations to come. Our marine environment is in a constant battle with the impact of humans. Please consider taking this factor out of the battle and side with our natural environment by banning the use single use plastic.

SB-522

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 7:04:37 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jan Oda	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

SB-522

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 7:26:56 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Richard Furst	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I'm writing to express my support for SB522 to ban single use items like plastic straws, plastic bags, and "styrofoam" containers from businesses and restaurants in Hawaii. As a surfer, hiker, hunter, and participant in numerous beach and stream cleanup efforts, I can personally attest to the amount of plastic and styrofoam debris that is littering our land and seas. We must take conclusive action now to keep more plastic and styrofoam from ending up in our natural environment. SB522 is a strong step in the right direction, and will help to make Hawaii a leader in protecting our priceless natural resources. Mahalo for taking positive action to help keep our environment clean!

SB-522

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 7:57:21 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Erin Hord	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-522

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 8:34:30 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Laura Acasio	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-522

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 7:59:33 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Katherine Lau	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support SB522. As a mother of a 5 year old, I feel intense responsibility to preserve our beautiful islands. My son loves ocean wildlife, has donated his money to ocean protection, and has already started asking how he can prevent plastic waste in Hawaii's oceans. I understand there is a cost to businesses to make this critical change in single-use plastics but the bill clearly shows there is a great financial and environmental cost if we choose NOT to take a stand against single-use plastics. Senators, I urge you to support this bill for the sake of all of Hawaii's children.

Sincerely, Katherine Lau of Hilo, Hawaii

SB-522

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 8:29:35 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kazuo Lau Stewart	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Hi Senators,

My name is Kaz and I am five. My mom asked me if Hawaii should stop using plastic forks and bags, and I said "Obviously, yes!" If we stop having plastic in the ocean every animal will not be extinct.

Thank you,

KAZUO

Dear Chair, Vice Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am in support of SB522 relating to plastic. I greatly appreciate the introducers of this bill being proactive in reducing the amount of non-biodegradable waste in Hawaii and the committee for hearing this bill. I believe the facts speak for themselves and why we need to rid our island home of our single-use plastic addiction...

PLASTIC POLLUTION FACTS AND STATS (SOURCE: [HTTPS://WWW.SAS.ORG.UK/OUR-WORK/PLASTIC-POLLUTION/PLASTIC-POLLUTION-FACTS-FIGURES/](https://www.sas.org.uk/our-work/plastic-pollution/plastic-pollution-facts-figures/))

- Plastic pollution can now be found on every beach in the world, from busy tourist beaches to uninhabited, tropical islands nowhere is safe.
- Scientists have recently discovered microplastics embedded deep in the Arctic ice.
- In 1950, the world's population of 2.5 billion produced 1.5 million tons of plastic; in 2016, a global population of more than 7 billion people produced over 320 million tons of plastic. This is set to double by 2034.
- Every day approximately 8 million pieces of plastic pollution find their way into our oceans.
- There may now be around 5.25 trillion macro and microplastic pieces floating in the open ocean. Weighing up to 269,000 tonnes.
- Plastics consistently make up 60 to 90% of all marine debris studied.
- Approx 5,000 items of marine plastic pollution have been found per mile of beach in the UK.
- Over 150 plastic bottles litter each mile of UK beaches.
- Recent studies have revealed marine plastic pollution in 100% of marine turtles, 59% of whales, 36% of seals and 40% of seabird species examined.
- 100,000 marine mammals and turtles and 1 million sea birds are killed by marine plastic pollution annually.

I believe Hawaii can lead the nation and the world in banning the use of plastics. We are one of the few states that are able to see the impacts of plastic on marine life, our beaches, and human health on a daily basis. I hope if this bill passes that it will also eliminate the "loophole" of allowing thicker plastic bags be exempt because they are considered "reusable" and any other amendments or exemptions that would otherwise undermine the intent of this bill. Please pass SB522.

Mahalo for your consideration
Chelsea Arnott
Kahaluu resident

SB-522

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 8:55:57 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Andra Janieks	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Today, it is common knowledge that our plastic waste is negatively affecting the ocean and our earth. In order to start working to solve this ever growing issue, we need to make changes TODAY. SB522 is a necessary step in the right direction.

SB-522

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 9:05:55 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
nancy hill	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-522

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 9:11:02 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jennifer Roberts	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-522

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 9:52:57 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Delphine Homerowski	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Honorable Chairs and Members of the Committees,

My name is Delphine Homerowski, I am a resident of Hawaii and a sustainability professional. I am part of the younger generation who works to create a sustainable future and I am urging you to provide you **support for Bill SB522**.

Plastic production and disposal has been a major contributor to environmental degradation around the globe. The Earth and our islands are suffocating in plastics. Less 10% of plastics are recycled world wide, 79% end up in landfills and slowly contaminate our underground water resources. The remaining 10% usually ends up in our oceans, polluting our beaches, endangering precious wildlife, and ultimately endangering our health.

I am providing my support for SB522, as I believe it is now time for Hawaii to do the right thing, set example for the rest of the nation and ban this toxic material once and for all.

Thank you,

Delphine Homerowski

SB-522

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 10:00:57 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rachael Brooke Lallo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I want to leave the planet better for future generations. I want to help support environmental conservation and make it easier for everyone else to do so. We need to make it easy to take care of, preserve and make better the environment. It should be a normalcy to be sustainable and use sustainable products/materials. There's no reason to use harmful material like plastic when there are alternatives. One species, humans, are single-speciesly ruining the planet for the rest of its inhabitants. We need to take responsibility and need to do it quickly for hope of recovery – if not for preserving a beautiful landscape (which is also important!) but the continuation of keeping planet earth habitable. There are solutions and alternatives, so let's use them! Maui will lead by example, talk the talk and walk the walk. Plastic is already consuming the planet, and unfortunately it's in full force. Let's not wait until everyone has a mound of plastic breaching their backyard before facing the issue...

SB-522

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 10:28:32 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Valentin Neamtu	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

its a very good plan, if anything it should be implemented sooner

SB-522

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 11:29:35 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sarah Afong	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

We don't need plastic. We shouldn't be using the ocean as a garbage can. We end up literally eating it and getting sick. There are other biodegradable quick use materials.

SB-522

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 11:39:41 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Andrea Nandoskar	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support SB522. As a longtime resident of Waikiki I have seen an intolerable increase in plastic pollution over the years from single use plastic items littering our beaches and walkways. I've also participated in beach cleanups and seen firsthand the devastating effects the gradual breaking down of these unnatural items reaks on our waterways, sea animals and land. It's heartbreaking. It gives me tremendous hope, however, when I see a bill such as this introduced at session. It helps me believe Hawaii can be the first plastic utensil, water bottle, straw and bag free state in the US. Please lend your support and help make this happen. Plastics are made from fossil fuels and discarded after one use, in the process contributing significantly to greenhouse gas emissions. As an island nation, Hawaii is at the front lines of the resulting change in our climate and already seeing disturbing events that have impacted communities such as the excessive flooding last year on Kauai and the increase in activity during this past hurricane season. The State of Hawaii has set out to be a leader in climate change, supporting this bill is helping our state government achieve those goals.

Mahalo for your consideration.

SB-522

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 11:42:45 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shasta Behling	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I'm supporting this bill because not only is it our duty to take care of what we stand on, because what we stand on is our foundation and without a foundation where are we supposed to growth. I was born and raised on Kauai. Throughout my year i have noticed a large amount of plastic going around being used for no more than 5-10 minutes and them being thrown away. What a waste of production to create something that has no sustainable value. I proposed we ban single use plastics and styrofoam from Hawaii because even after traveling the world it is one of the most beautiful places on earth to me and if you've been you would think the same. Let's preserve the and and move in the direction to a greener and more environmentally aware future.

SB-522

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 12:26:51 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	Testifying for O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai`i	Support	No

Comments:

SB-522

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 12:42:10 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Carla Gimpel	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

ALoha, my name is Carla Gimpel, i am a scientist and have been working on environmental consecuenses of human behavior for years. Long ago it became obvious for marine scientists that the exponentially increasing plastic residues in the ocean were to be overwhelming if we did not stop the abuse right away. Well, we did not. We still have not done much about it. Convenience became priority in less than a generation. The problem is major now, even the fish we consume believeing is as healthy as it gets are infested with plastic molecules that bioacumulate in our bodies. There is not much to say about the sea birds that starve to death as their stomachs fill with shiny microplastics that look like food to them. Or the sea life confined to circular plastic wraps that might choke them to death. I could go on and on. But there is only one period, enough is enough & Hawai'i has the chance to lead the concious shift towards a sustainable human lyfestyle, for all, for generations to come. Please, represent the best interests of Hawai'i nei & support the ban of plastic madness in our islands. Mahalo, Carla.

SB-522

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 1:06:59 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jennifer Milholen	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

Aloha, committee members and mahalo for taking the time to consider SB522. My name is Jennifer Milholen, and I work for KĀ• kua Hawai'i Foundation as the Waste Reduction Coordinator. Our programs work with schools and communities across the state who envision a plastic-pollution free Hawai'i. We achieve this through presentations, beach and watershed cleanups, community and business partnerships, and modeling waste free events, all engaging 10s of thousands of Hawa'i residents and visitors. The feedback from these programs is overwhelmingly unified: Get Single-Use Plastics Out! This bill address the "low hanging fruit" of senseless plastic pollution that can be quickly and effectively transitioned out with massive impact. Other municipalities, like Berkeley, CA are already moving on measures like these with massive public support. The path is defined, we only need the courage of lawmakers to push us forward.

The legislature is tasked with considering thousands of bills every session, each taking up matters that impact the health, safety and happiness of Hawai'i residents and visitors. Every single one matters, but I would argue that these bills that address plastic pollution and embracing a zero waste framework for production, consumption, and disposal are THE most important. What is often lost in plastics conversations, is that PLASTIC PRODUCTION = CLIMATE CHANGE.

"99% OF PLASTIC COMES FROM FOSSIL FUELS.

When we think about climate change, we typically focus on factories, coal and cars, but rarely on this fact. As plastic activists, we usually talk about downstream environmental impacts or health threats, but only marginally on the connection between the plastics economy and carbon pollution.

PLASTIC IS CONNECTED TO CLIMATE CHANGE AND IT POLLUTES AT EVERY STAGE: FROM MATERIALS EXTRACTION TO PRODUCT PRODUCTION TO WASTE DISPOSAL."

Climate change is the most dangerous issue of our time, and urgent, broad sweeping action is essential. IF we want to truly act as the global environmental leaders that we claim to be, we HAVE to acknowledge that the flood of plastics in our lives are

directly contributing to climate change and take local, but impactful, changes to transition away from these single-use convenience plastics.

Mahalo for your time and consideration. Please support SB522.

Jennifer Milholen

SB-522

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 1:28:39 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
rebecca lewis	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-522

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 3:24:31 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Megan Adolph	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-522

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 3:41:20 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kim Jorgensen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Senators,

I strongly support Bill SB522. Too many products relating to food service are used only once and they become litter and pollution.

The dangers of styrofoam, polystyrene, and plastics to humans, wildlife, oceans, and the environment are substantially documented. Photographs of partially decomposed dead birds with pieces of these products laying where their alimentary tracts used to be is heartbreaking.

You cannot go to any park or beach, drive along any road, or hike along any stream or the Ala Wai canal, without seeing these products littered, floating, or blowing away.

This bill will not only help make Hawai'i cleaner and safer once it goes into effect, but it will make an enormous impact for all future generations. Please don't make our future generations ask why it took us so long.

Sincerely,

Kim Jorgensen

Waikiki

SB-522

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 3:54:41 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Denise Boisvert	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Senators,

I wholeheartedly support SB522 and cannot thank all those who introduced it enough.

Please pass this bill for the sake of the environment and all marine and wildlife on our shores and in our waters.

Sincerely,

Denise Boisvert

Waikiki

SB-522

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 4:01:50 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
june chee	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Testimony

February 6, 2019 (1:15 p.m.)

Conference Room 224

By: Tanya Torres

SB 522 - RELATING TO PLASTIC.

Senators and members of the committees:

I strongly support SB 522 because it will phase out a variety of unnecessary and harmful single use plastics over a 5 year period and create a working group to eliminate plastic packaging in our state. Polystyrene foam, plastic straws, utensils, bags, and water bottles are all examples of single use plastics that more than often are not disposed of properly and make their way to our beautiful beaches. This is a problem because it is unpleasant and unsanitary for local people as well as our tourist economy that depends so much on our pristine shores. These plastics are also harmful to the fragile ecosystems found nowhere else in the world besides Hawaii. Ingestion, suffocation, and entanglement of our sea life is far too common. It is time to take a stand and eliminate these plastics from our communities. The negative impacts associated with these items far outweigh the positives. Especially since readily available alternatives exist. I hope to see Hawaii move in the right direction to protect its land, resources, and people. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this important measure.

SB-522

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 7:42:21 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Barbara Wiedner	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Elected officials

Please support this bill.

Mahalo

Barbara Wiedner

1774 Puu Kaa St Kapaa, Hi 96746

808-635-2593

SB-522

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 8:30:55 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mary Lacques	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-522

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 8:53:32 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kapua Kawelo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I wholeheartedly support this bill! I am a native Hawaiian and I am very saddened by what we are doing to our island which has a limited land base. All of these plastics and foams end up in our oceans, our streams, and our watersheds. Hawaii is at a crossroads with the rest of the planet. We need people to take responsibility for their impacts on our limited resources. It is all of our kuelana to be aware of the waste we produce and to take action to minimize what goes into our landfills that are already overburdened! As our representatives, you have a responsibility to make changes for the that are in the best interest of the entire community. Please pass this bill!

SB-522

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 8:57:27 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Georgia Acevedo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support this bill to ban plastic from our state. It is FAR OVERDUE! Instead of being a leader in saving our planet, Hawai'i has fallen far behind. Even the country of COSTA RICA has voted to ban plastic by 2021!! (see ecowatch.com/tag/costa-rica). Our country-side, beaches, reefs, all our islands are littered with plastic that ends up in the stomachs of our birds and marine life. Please! for the sake of our children and grandchildren, BAN PLASTIC! Do the right thing! Save the planet!

SB-522

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 8:59:44 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kanehoalani Kawelo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Too much waste already! Fix um! Please pass this bill.

SB-522

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 9:10:07 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Zamora Sanchez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

My name is Zamora and I have visited the islands many times, I fell in love and now I am making the steps to move there. I have always been an ocean lover, and being so I care so much for this amazing body of water full of so much life! The ocean helps the earth digest all the pollution we create which could definitely not be done by just the earth itself, as we can see there is still a lot that we create that can't be caught up on. The islands are home to beautiful people, and they take care of us all. The islands deserve to be cared for and so do our oceans. Plastic is a big problem that needs to be addressed ASAP. The plastic breaks down into smaller particles that go into the currents of the ocean, into the food we eat, and takes the lives of our ocean friends. There are a lot of biodegradable and reusable options for single use items if they are needed, so banning them will not hurt anyone. We need to keep this amazing environment clean, and help other parts of the ocean where trash from the islands is traveling to in the ocean currents. This will help everyone as a whole, including the earth that takes care of us so well. Please see the damage we cause as it is not including unnecessary single use items, the least we can do to start the process of cleaning and healing this earth is to ban them. Think of the world children are being brought into and how they see that some of us treat the earth poorly, and that is what they grow up thinking is right. Let's create a good world for them and be good examples so they can do the same and start the small steps to healing our beautiful home!

SB-522

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 9:16:57 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joby Rohrer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To Whom It May Concern:

Plastic and foam are environmental nightmares! We should ban their continued use.
Please pass this bill.

Joby Rohrer

SB-522

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 9:31:42 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kim Coco Iwamoto	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

Testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of SB522 with amendments.

Aloha Chairs Gabbard and Baker and Members of the Committees,

I want to thank the Senators who drafted, introduced and signed-onto this important bill. Thank you for putting the welfare of our planet above the discomfort of businesses, big and small. As someone who grew up working for a large family company and who runs my own business today, I have learned that businesses need to constantly keep up with changes in the market place.

And as consumers, we have all had to make changes to keep up with technology, culture and now climate. When the plastic bag ban first started, I always forgot my canvass bags in the car and I would have run back to get them - small kine humbug. But now, I know the drill.

Same goes for the changes outlined in SB 522: today, I carry my own container that I can refill at the water fountain, I carry my metal and bamboo straws, and I keep containers in my bag for left-overs when I dine out. But I also carry food scissors to cut my daughter's food and her special utensils that are just the right size for her. I also find myself buying bacon from the butcher who wraps it in paper, instead of the bacon that is pre-wrapped in plastic.

These are small behavioral modifications that I make as an individual and they may add up over a long period of time, but making statewide policy that speaks to our collective potential - that can have a substantial impact in a short amount of time.

With the Great Pacific Garbage Patch growing at the rate it is, businesses do not need 6 years to use up their current stock of single-use plastics, or find alternate vendors and solutions. **I urge this committee to amend the deadlines in the bill to reflect the urgency of the matter and ban all single-use plastics by July 1, 2021 - this will give business and consumers two years to get with the program.**

Sincerely,

Kim Coco Iwamoto

SB-522

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 9:32:48 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Susan Oppie	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-522

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 9:33:20 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kahi Pacarro	Testifying for Sustainable Coastlines Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

It's time for our State to be leaders in the realm of progressive plastic steps considering we are the ones that end up being on the receiving end of the worlds overuse of plastic. It's hard for us to point the finger at others if we are not also living and pushing a plastic reduced lifestyle. This Bill will help us do that.

SB-522

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 9:33:07 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ho'ohila Kawelo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha to whoever it may concern,

I am writing to you today to speak of my concern about the effect of plastic bags, bottles, and foam on the environment in Hawaii and throughout the world. When it comes to the environment these materials have no beneficial effects whatsoever, due to the fact that it takes them millions of years to decompose. In the time that these materials are decomposing, they have the time to travel all over the world and affect more than one creature. Once put into a landfill it is only too easy for these materials to escape (especially light plastic bags) into more delicate territory, like the ocean or forest. Once in these natural habitats, they will most likely be consumed by an unsuspecting and relatively unintelligent animal, poisoning their bodies and often leading to death by digestive malfunction.

It is only too simple for us to lower our negative impact on the environment so why are we delaying action. Is it so crucial that we use nonbiodegradable materials to store and receive our food? Are we so selfish that we can't spend an extra ten dollars to buy a reusable container, bag, or water bottle? Personally, my family is not so self-centered and thinks of how we can make a difference every day. We spend that extra money and keep spare containers in the car for any occasion. I also own multiple reusable water bottles and take reusable bags to any store I visit. If we don't act now then one-day species population's will diminish to critical sizes and you can look back and finally feel guilty enough to think, why didn't I do something? People can call me dramatic and say what they do won't make a difference, and yes, it's true, if everyone says that then nothing will be accomplished.

But, this bill will begin the fight to a better future in the positive effect of humans on the environment and the ability for us to finally limit our excessive output of waste. So please pass this bill as I, and hopefully, others stand in support of a REUSEABLE Hawaii.

Mahalo for listening,

Ho'ohila Kawelo

Highschool Student

SB-522

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 9:43:43 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Christina Comfort	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I support this bill that sets goals to phase out single use plastics and styrofoam containers. I live on the north shore of O'ahu and have been an O'ahu resident for 10 years. I see the effects of single use plastics every day on our beaches. Beach cleanups are great, and I participate along with many in the community, but we will never finish cleaning up the beaches if we don't start reducing the source. As an oceanographer at the University of Hawaii, I know that plastics find their way into our oceans en masse and photo-degrade into tiny pieces, which fish and seabirds mistake for food and which irrevocably enter the marine food web. As a community member, I have seen many businesses successfully phasing out single use plastics and adopting more sustainable and less polluting ways of serving food, packaging goods, etc, so we know this is possible! The momentum is strong and Hawaii is in a great position to be a leader on this issue. Thanks for your consideration to support this bill.

Christina Comfort, Pupukeya, HI

SB-522

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 9:47:38 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sara Van Gent	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this measure. Please phase out all single use plastics. I think the use of polystyrene, plastic bags, plastic straws, plastic water bottles, plastic single use items and packaging are all wasteful and unnecessary.

SB-522

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 9:49:20 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Hannah	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-522

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 10:04:06 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Monrudee Osa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

WE CAN GET IT DONE WE ALL KNOW EXACTLY HOW PLASTICS IS BAD FOR HUMAN FOR ENVIRONMENT. NOT GET IT DONE RIGHT PLEASE ENJOY PLASTIC BEACH AND DEATH OCEAN CREATURES. WHAT GOING TO HAPPEND TO OUR BEAUTIFUL HAWAII. WE HAVE TO DO IT NOW.

SB-522

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 10:15:04 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nadine Lane	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Plastic is absolutely horrible for the ocean, animals and even ourselves. We live on an island where plastic is more likely to reach the sea, allowing animals to ingest it, even fish! And who eats fish? We do! Please support this bill!

Mahalo

SB-522

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 10:30:27 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alexandra	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a student and young citizen living in Honolulu I will be the one seeing the effects from humans that will be destroying our home and world.

Plastic is a material made to last forever, yet 33 percent of all plastic water bottles, bags and straws are used just once and thrown away. Plastic cannot biodegrade; it breaks down into smaller and smaller pieces. Even today sitting at Makapu'u beach on O'ahu, swimming amongst the billions of pieces of plastic that wash up on one of the many beaches in Hawai'i, you can see the devastation. Our resources are so important to us that we should be doing everything we can to protect. There are thousands of landfills in the United States, and buried beneath each one of them, toxic chemicals from plastics drain out and seep into groundwater, flowing downstream into lakes and rivers. Even plankton, the tiniest creatures in our oceans, are eating microplastics and absorbing their hazardous chemicals. The tiny, broken down pieces of plastic are displacing the algae needed to sustain larger sea life who feed on them. Toxic chemicals leach out of plastic and are found in the blood and tissue of nearly all of us (humans). Exposure to them is linked to cancers, birth defects, impaired immunity, endocrine disruption and other ailments. Chemicals in plastic which give them their rigidity or flexibility (flame retardants, bisphenols, phthalates and other harmful chemicals) are oily poisons that repel water and stick to petroleum-based objects like plastic debris. So, the toxic chemicals that leach out of plastics can accumulate on other plastics. This is a serious concern with increasing amounts of plastic debris accumulating in the world's oceans.

As a tourist capitol of the world we need to set an example to all of the people entering and leaving Hawai'i. Everything suffers: tourism, recreation, business, the health of humans, animals, fish and birds because of plastic pollution. The financial damage continuously being inflicted is inestimable.

I support this statement as student and citizen of Hawaii. If we want a Promise for the Keikis we need to make change happen now. - Alexandra Hirst

SB-522

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 10:52:37 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Matthew Tactacan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Approximately 8.3 billion metric tons of plastic has been produced ever, 6.3 billion metric tons has become plastic waste. Only 9% of the 6.3 billion metric tons has been recycled. Approximately 29% of the remaining 91% that wasn't recycled is in our oceans right now becoming micro-plastic and encroaching on our precious food chain ecosystems.

"Food wasted by the United States and Europe alone could feed the world 3 times over."

71,000,000+ tons of food waste this year already (We're only 2 months into 2019)

http://www.theworldcounts.com/counters/world_food_consumption_statistics/world_food_waste_statistics

SB-522

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 11:17:13 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dwamoto	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB 522**In Strong Support**

Hawaii, and all other 49 states do not need plastic, foam, or single use packaging. As a Hawaii resident, PhD marine ecologist, and citizen that regularly enjoys our coastline, it is clear that Hawaii-derived rubbish is ending up in our marine environment. It is also apparent to me that the chemical companies and their lobbyists make up the large majority of the opposition to this and similar legislation. Please vote with the will of the residents of this beautiful state to keep our beaches and environments clear of trash. Mahalo nui –Dr. Daniel Amato

SB-522

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 12:35:23 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lindsay Terkelsen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

We need this comprehensive bill now. We need to phase out plastics from State agencies and all businesses now.

SB-522

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 1:19:49 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jessica Agsalda	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support S.B. No. 522 relating to the gradual phase-out of foam and plastic in state agencies and businesses on Oahu, which would slow the amount of non-biodegradable waste building up on our island.

Even though there may be many people who make a real effort at reducing their waste such as using reusable water bottles and bringing their own reusable bags to the grocery store, I don't think this is enough to curb our reliance on single-use plastics. It's too easy to accept plastic take out containers since it's usually the only thing available at establishments. And even though it's an extra cost to accept plastic and paper bags at stores, I still see many opting to purchase these bags.

I have friends that do not curb their use of plastics and their reason is that H-Power is available to burn our trash. The burning of plastics should not be our solution. In addition, many of my friends and family find recycling to be inconvenient or don't recycle at all. I also find that usually, plastic take out containers are not the right type to be accepted at recycling facilities.

Our environment should be protected and we should not be introducing more pollution by allowing single-use plastics from entering our environment.

We should take the next step and gradually ban non-biodegradable items that businesses distribute. In gradually banning the accessibility of plastic and foam, we will make it easier for residents and visitors to stop their reliance on certain plastic and foam goods. I urge the committee to pass S.B. No. 522. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

SB-522

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 3:17:41 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Simon Russell	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-522

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 7:58:56 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joshua Thomas	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support this bill

SB-522

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 8:15:05 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Karen Abe	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To whom it may concern,

My name is Karen Abe and I am writing as a representative of youth voices as a resident of the Kahala Area. I am writing in full support of SB 522, Hawaii's zero wage plan to commit to following UN's Sustainable Development Goals and being responsible for Hawaii's consumer culture. Thank you for considering this important bill.

As a resident of the Kahala area, Waialae Beach Park has been the closest beach since my childhood, but recently have been devastated by the amount of trash either left or that have flown out of trash cans at the park. Most of the trash tends to be light "plastics" that come from the consumer society of take out foods such as single use plastic forks, spoons and take out containers. I personally take action against the use of plastic by bringing my own containers and straws to my favorite cafes and food stops. However as a teenager, I also understand the large consumer population islands that includes locals as well as international tourists, who uses plastic as it often the only options available to them in stores. Therefore I strongly believe that it is up to the state to control the flow of these polystyrene into the consumers hands.

The consumer society in Hawaii is different from any other it also includes the heavy flow of tourists. I believe that the only way to control the plastic waste production here in Hawaii is through policy and limiting the initial output of these plastics into the consumers hands. As a study abroad student in London (currently), where single-use plastics such are banned, I have felt no difference in convenience and have felt better as a consumer to not use throw-away products so often. My waste footprint here in London is way lower in London just because of the more secure control of plastic flow from businesses to consumers.

The plastic waste produced in Hawaii has detrimental effects on marine life as well as atmospheric CO₂ due to the waste flow after consumer use. Plastics end up out of trash cans due to tourist and resident carelessness, overflow or wind movement and the waste ends up in the oceans. These plastics never or takes centuries for it to degrade and usually ends up as micro plastics that marine life mistaken for food as. The plastics used also caused damage in the atmosphere when burned at H power and if not at H power ends up in the lands ruining the islands beauty— which will eventually impact our tourism industry.

By cutting our waste to zero, we will be able to conserve the consumer society (which is hard to change) and have little to no negative impact on the environment.

Hawaii, as a unique state surrounded by the marine life all around, we are one of the few state that has a bold connection and understanding of the environment in the United States. I believe it is our duty to lead our nation by example and implementing this zero waste plan as a way to illustrate the “Malama Aina” culture to tourist and other states. The passing of this bill will also connect to the preservation of this unique Hawaiian culture.

Hawaii, it is time to illustrate our native values and beliefs instead of finding business incentives our “priority.” Do it for our Keiki and the future generations to come.

Thank you for your consideration of my testimony and of this important issue.

Karen Abe

SB-522

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 8:28:28 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Abigail Machernis	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

1. Adjust the language on the ban of plastic straws to prohibit a full-service restaurant, from providing single-use plastic straws, to consumers unless requested by the consumer. This would allow individuals that are not capable of using plastic straw alternatives, such as people with certain motor function or muscular disabilities, the exemption needed and prevent the alienation of members of the community who require plastic straws as a necessity.
2. The need for better language on the definition of "plastic". As it stands, bioplastics would be considered an acceptable alternative to regular plastics. Unfortunately, bioplastics are only degradable in a commercial composting facility, which is not available on every island in the state. There are currently only two commercial composting facilities in the state of Hawaii, one on the Big Island and one that is out of commission on Oahu. When in a landfill, bioplastics are essentially traditional plastics that never biodegrade. To include all islands, bioplastics should not be listed as an acceptable alternative to traditional plastics.

SB-522

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 8:53:17 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sara Matsumura	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-522

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 8:55:25 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kirsten Moy	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of this initiative to eliminate single-use plastics from our economy. We have moved beyond the era of misinformation that marked the 1950s and the rise of the throwaway lifestyle. We are so much more informed and aware of our impacts on our environment than generations that came before us. Our government must reflect our knowledge. For instance, we've known for over a decade now that we are dumping over 8M metric tons of plastic waste into our oceans. We know that at present levels of production, consumption, and disposal, our oceans will have 4x the amount of plastics by 2050 (Geyer, R., Jambeck, J.R., Law, K.L., 2017. Production, use, and fate of all plastics ever made. Sci. Adv. 3, e1700782; <http://advances.sciencemag.org/content/3/7/e1700782>).

This year, the former Director of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Marine Debris Program co-authored a publication (<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.marpolbul.2018.12.004>) with Nakama Kai's Bud Antonelis and myself to lay out the problem of persistent solid waste pollution such as single-use plastics. In it, we argue that absent major reorganization, renewed policy commitments, and significant long-term funding from governments, we will be overcome by the plastic tide.

To Chairman Gabbard and Members of the Agriculture and Environment Committee,

As someone who has been involved in environmental issues since I was 15 years old, I can truly testify with a long term perspective on them. The negative impacts wastefulness creates have been a particular focus for me, and I have long advocated for waste reduction in addition to promoting other strategies like re-use and recycling. Over the past 50 years, it has become frightfully clear to me that plastic is one of the most dangerous and insidious forms of pollution on the planet. It is also clear that we must do everything we can, as quickly as we can, to eliminate all non-essential uses of plastic.

The preamble to SB522 describes the problem of plastic pollution in a profoundly articulate way. Rather than reiterate the argument for the bill's purpose, I will simply ask you to re-read the preamble, slowly and with as much respect as you can muster for all life on our beloved planet as well as the future generations of those life forms who will either suffer or thrive depending on the decisions we make today.

None of the items targeted for elimination by this bill are essential. And it is imperative that we quickly convene the best minds working on a solution to plastic pollution so that a clear strategy for eliminating any further non-essential uses can be established.

Please pass SB 522 with no amendments.

Thank you for your kind consideration,

Kristine Kubat
164 Kapaka Street
Hilo, Hawaii 96720

SB-522

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 9:12:40 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Samantha Berberich	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

As an avid beach goer and freediver I'm tired of seeing disgusting beaches and our ocean filled with tons of trash. I feel like my life is consumed by going to beach clean ups and turning my fun dives into trash clean ups. It's unhealthy for our environment and our economy. No tourist wants to hang out on a filthy beach or dive/snorkel in polluted waters.

If plate lunch places sell a reuseable utensil sets (metal or bamboo), reuseable cups, etc people won't have a choice but to use it. Target stopped offering paper or plastic bags and only sells reuseable ones now. This move has not poorly effected Target's business and theres no reason it should affect restaurants.

Mahalo for listening,

Samantha Berberich

SB-522

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 9:19:13 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ryan Cameron	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please take steps to reduce our use of single use plastics. They are polluting the seas and damaging aquatic life . The micro plastic detritus from aged single use and other plastic rubbish is negatively effecting the marine ecosystem at the base level. This effect is harming every level of marine life. We all depend on marine life as a food source. We need to protect and nourish the marine ecosystems so that our children for generations to come will continue to be able to sustain themselves and their families from the sea.

We don't need all this plastic. There are and will be better alternatives. Let's make Hawaii a leader and example to the rest of the world. Let's create the industry to supply Hawaii and the world with biodegradable products . We can protect the sea, boost the local economy with new industry, AND, still enjoy one ONO plate lunch to go.

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SB-522

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 9:23:31 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rebecca Peet	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

It has been proven time and time again that plastic is killing our marine life, hurting our forests, and is generating nothing useful for our planet or ourselves. Hawai'i can and should be a leader in banning plastic and taking a decisive and straightforward step to mitigating climate change.

LATE

SB-522

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 10:17:52 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kennedy-Anne Marx	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

We are a tiny island, I don't want it to go to waste because of wasteful plastic use. It's disgusting.

LATE

SB-522

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 10:26:19 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Niana feeney	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a person lucky enough to grow up in Hawaii and to call this place my home I would love for Hawaii to get closer to a zero waste lifestyle. The bag ban was a good start but we need more. The amount of garbage in our oceans and on our beaches is disgusting. There has been countless studies and research should be more then enough evidence that we need to be taking better care of what we have. I'm only 26 but even I can remember a time of cleaner beaches and cleaner water. The cost up front might be more but over time it will become sustainable and worth it. Money should not be a issue when it comes to our islands and all it has given us. Let's give our keikis and generations to come a beautiful sustainable future.

LATE

SB-522

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 10:52:37 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jared	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Committee on Agriculture and Environment and Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health;

The mission of Pacific Whale Foundation (PWF) is to protect the ocean through science and advocacy and to inspire environmental stewardship. We support and greatly appreciate your efforts to help reduce single-use plastics in the State of Hawaii. We write to provide our **support** for Bill SB522 with the report title of "Plastic Food Packaging; Plastic Bags; Single-Use Beverage Containers; Prohibition; Plastic Source Reduction Working Group; Appropriation" aimed at reducing single-use plastic items in the state of Hawaii, but with a few suggested amendments.

As a scientific organization, many of PWF's studies have shown plastic pollution to be an ever growing problem in Hawaii. A recent baseline study published by Currie *et al.* (2018) found 90% of nearshore macro debris in Maui Nui to be plastics. Another study conducted by PWF surveyed three shoreline beaches around the island of Maui in part to determine the most prevalent type of debris on the island (Blickley *et al.* 2016). This study concluded that of the debris collected at each of the three sites; 70% of it was plastic. As part of our citizen science efforts, our Coastal Marine Debris Monitoring Program has been collecting coastal marine debris data from volunteers since 2013 (CMDMP, 2019). Of the ~25,000 pieces of debris collected to date, 84% were plastics. These local studies have shown plastic debris to be a major problem that is extremely prevalent not only around the world, but here in Hawaii as well.

Eight million metric tons of plastic enter our oceans each year, and plastic production does not seem to be slowing down (Jambeck *et al.*, 2015). Plastics do not biodegrade; instead, they go through a process called photodegrading, meaning they will break up into smaller and smaller pieces, but never truly are gone from the environment. Further, only 9% of recyclable products are actually being recycled (EPA, 2018). In an effort to solve this plastic pollution issue, compostable 'bio-plastics' were created. Bioplastics are typically made out of polylactic acid (PLA) which is sugars from corn starch, cassava, or sugarcane. While bioplastics will break down very efficiently and emit less greenhouse gases if disposed of properly, this would have to be done in an industrial compost facility, which we do not have on all of the Main Hawaiian Islands. When bioplastics are not put into an industrial compost facility and end up in a landfill, they release methane, a greenhouse gas that is 23 times more potent than carbon dioxide (Posen *et al.*, 2017). We believe this should be taken under consideration when talking about non-plastic, compostable alternatives and when defining the word plastic.

500 million plastic straws are used every day in America and straws have become one of the top ten marine debris items found during beach clean ups both in our own country and worldwide (Ocean Conservancy, 2018). In the summer of 2018, there was a wave of environmental campaigns asking for cities and states to ban all plastic straws from businesses, restaurants, theme parks, and even airplanes. But in the hopes of putting a dent into our plastic pollution problem, the needs of disabled persons have been overlooked. The

American Disability Alliance (ADA) has expressed that people with certain motor function or muscular disabilities require plastic drinking straws. Often times, non-plastic alternatives do not function in the same way as plastic straws, which some people require to drink. We believe this is something the state of Hawaii should also take into account for in this proposed bill, by adding in an exemption for people with disabilities, and/or requiring restaurants to keep a stock of plastic straws for people who require them for medical reasons.

Plastic debris is becoming a looming and increasing threat in today's world, with over 220 million tons of plastic produced each year (GESAMP. (2009). Pacific Whale Foundation asks all of its members and supporters to help keep our single-use plastics to a minimum here in the state of Hawaii by supporting this proposed bill.

We believe the proposal to reduce a variety of single-use plastic items state-wide should be passed with careful consideration to all parties involved. Passing this proposal will benefit our oceans and wildlife, while taking a large step in the direction of reducing our plastic pollution crisis.

Sincerely,

Jenny Roberts

Conservation Coordinator for Pacific Whale Foundation

Jens Currie

Chief Scientist for Pacific Whale Foundation

Stephanie Stack

Chief Biologist for Pacific Whale Foundation

Literature Cited:

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LATE

SB-522

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 11:14:31 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Hideki Kimukai	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear [Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto](#) and Committee members,

I live on University Ave and has been volunteering for Sustainable Coastlines Hawaii for more than 5 years. Through many beach cleanups I have attended, I can strongly testify that Single Use Plastic products has no place on islands of Hawai'i. Collected 'recyclable' materials are bought by 'brokers' and most likely ending up in Asia countries where environmental regulations are not strictly enforced and has no waste management infrastructure to accommodate massive amount of plastic waste we produce through tourism. When they are thrown away, they are ending up in our natural environment unintentionally or intentionally. East side of the island are heavily contaminated with micro/nano plastics including ghost nets which are made out of synthetic fibers. Plastics are made with chemical substances that do not bio-degrade easily yet they start to degrade and leach out chemical substances many are known to be toxic to human and ecosystem. Throw away culture are contaminating our precious natural resources which Hawai'i 's economy heavily depends on. We must reduce our negative impacts on our resources and on ourselves immediately before we throw away our future.

SB-522

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 11:15:04 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Aidan Anderson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Bill SB522 will be monumental if it is passed. I hope this testimony helps accomplish this feat. On an island with a limited population and waste capacity, the absence of plastic will increase its sustainability for a more beautiful island.

LATE

SB-522

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 11:50:44 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Addison Davis	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

SB-522

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 12:39:26 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ken Sentner	Testifying for Surfrider Foundation	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Legislators,

Please take action to eliminate the scourge of plastic pollution of our land and ocean. Bold action will be needed to protect our environment for future generations, as well as to protect our tourism-based economy.

Sincerely,

Ken Sentner

2499 Kapiolani Blvd, Apt. 2209

Honolulu, HI 96826